draft general management plan visitor use/park operations/development august 1978

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YOSEMITE



NATIONAL PARK / CALIFORNIA



Draft General Management Plan

Visitor Use/ Park Operations/Development

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK CALIFORNIA



Water in its myriad forms has created and sustained Yosemite National Park. As ice it has sculptured the sheer walled valleys, polished the shining shoulders of the mountains, and gouged hundreds of lake basins. Freezing and thawing day by day through thousands of springs and autumns, it has etched sharp peaks and mantled mountain slopes with boulder fields and scree.

As winter snow it whitens the High Sierra then melts to form the streams which flow across mountain meadows, rage through canyons, then plunge from cliff rim to valley floor.

Water from rain and melting snows freshen mountain meadows, producing ephemeral changing fields of color. In the Mariposa, Tuolumne, and Merced Groves, these life-giving waters nourish ancient sequoias through the centuries.

The stunning beauty of the incomparable Yosemite Valley and the majesty of the big trees in Mariposa Grove demanded protection and preservation, resulting in America's first great park. Later, the surrounding peaks and forests were added to become Yosemite National Park.

Today the natural beauties of Yosemite inspire millions of people, just as they inspired the ways of the Native Americans who lived here for centuries, the thoughts of philosophers like John Muir, and the art of Ansel Adams — all of whom have provided a human dimension which adds immeasurably to our appreciation of this great place.



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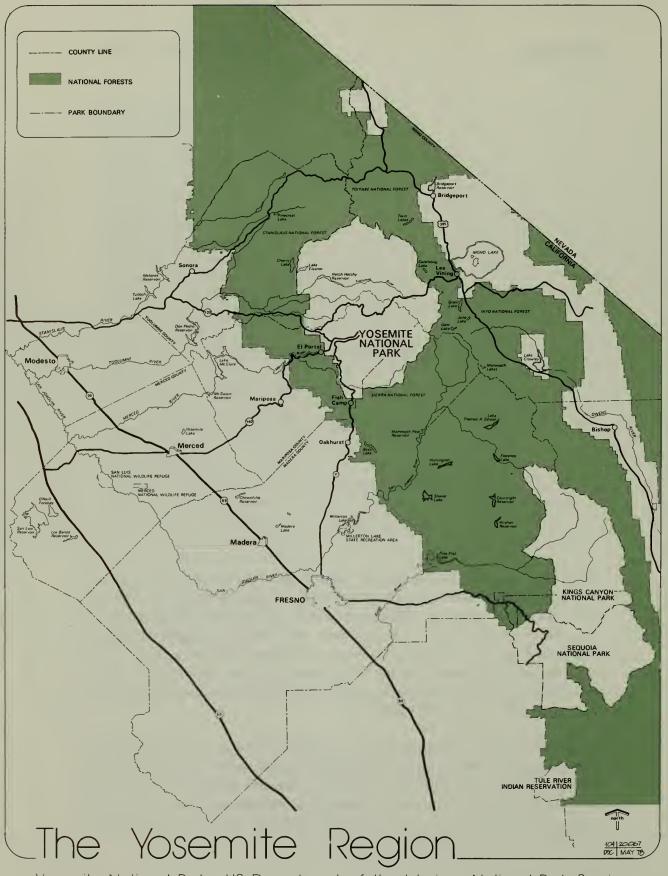
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Preface

This Visitor Use, Park Operations, and Development Plan for Yosemite National Park is part of the park's General Management Plan, which has grown out of a major extended planning study and public involvement program. Other components of the General Management Plan are the Natural Resources Management Plan and the Cultural Resources Management Plan, both of which have been published separately and are available from the park. Together, these plans represent a comprehensive set of decisions regarding the future of Yosemite National Park for the next 10 to 15 years.

The probable effects of these plans on the natural, cultural, and socioeconomic environments have been assessed and published in two environmental compliance documents: Draft Environmental Statement, General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment, Natural Resources Management Plan. All of the proposals of this plan are fully compatible with the objectives and strategies proposed in the park's resources management plans.



_Yosemite National Park__U.S. Department of the Interior__National Park Service_

Introduction

During the past 15 years dramatic changes have taken place in Yosemite National Park. Shuttle buses now carry visitors through parts of Yosemite Valley and all of Mariposa Grove. Campsites, particularly in the Valley, have been identified and numbered, and camping parties are held to the number of available sites. Much of the park has been proposed for wilderness and is managed as such by limiting the number of people and the extent of their activity in the backcountry. Innovative interpretive programs respond to people's constantly shifting attitudes and perceptions, helping them understand and appreciate Yosemite. There are many other examples; yet clearly, there must be additional even more dramatic changes to protect what is spectacular about Yosemite and to meet the various expectations of this generation of visitors.



We have perceived our great natural parks quite differently over the years: first as remote, fantastic places known only through picture books; later as pleasuring grounds for the wealthy; still later as middle-class family vacation spots where we could stay in motels, eat in restaurants, and view the natural wonders out of our car windows. Each of these eras is reflected in the character of Yosemite — in its rugged backcountry, its grand Ahwahnee, and its maze of roads connecting a well-developed system of overnight accommodations, eating places, and stores. The controversy over Yosemite that emerged several years ago was a sign that our perceptions of Yosemite are changing again and that certain elements of the park need to be redesigned to reflect our changing attitudes.

As advancing urbanization presses our tolerance of asphalt, concrete, and noise, we are becoming aware that what is truly valuable about places like Yosemite is their scenery, their quietness, and the opportunity they provide for escape from city life. Accompanying this awareness is a recognition that we have been destroying these qualities by trying to transport our city lifestyles into the parks. Fifty years ago we were busy building roads and parking areas to "open up" Yosemite Valley and make it accessible to the new generation of mobile Americans; today we look with irony on the acres of pavement, the traffic congestion, and the noise we have created.

This is a plan for the beginning of a new era at Yosemite. The goal is not to change the kinds of activities people have been enjoying here, but rather to improve the quality of their experiences by rectifying an overzealous attempt to civilize the park. The major concepts of the plan are to reduce, and in some areas eventually exclude, automobile traffic, eliminate chronic overcrowdedness, remove nonessential facilities, restore as much of the natural scene as possible, and facilitate access to and appreciation of the park's outstanding natural and cultural features. These concepts are reflected in the plan in the following ways.

REALLOCATION OF LAND USE

Substantial amounts of development will be displaced from highly scenic or environmentally fragile areas to more resilient environments inside the park or to the administrative site at El Portal. As a result portions of outstanding natural areas in Yosemite Valley, Mariposa Grove, and Tuolumne Meadows will be restored to a natural condition, and opportunities for appreciating these areas will be enhanced.

Nonessential facilities, including the headquarters offices of the National Park Service and the Yosemite Park and Curry Company, will be moved to El Portal. This move will include the relocation of central maintenance facilities and housing for all employees who are not stationed in park areas. When fully developed, El Portal will become a small town with a seasonal population of nearly 2,000 residents.

DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES

A variety of resource-related activities and programs will be provided for, and traditional use patterns will generally be retained. In the Valley, recreational facilities with no relation to park resources (swimming pools, tennis courts, golf course, and ice rink) will be removed. Activities, such as hiking, picnicking, and interpretation, that relate closely to appreciation of the park will be emphasized. Nonmechanized forms of winter use will be encouraged. Snowmobiling will not be allowed within the park.

ESTABLISHMENT OF VISITOR USE LEVELS

New overnight and day use levels for the various developed areas in the park will be related to the proposed capacities of development. Parkwide, overnight accommodations will be decreased by 190 units, campgrounds will be increased by 203 sites, and day parking areas will be increased by about 700 spaces. The greatest change in use levels will occur in Yosemite Valley, where both overnight and day use facilities will be decreased. The backcountry use levels will remain the same. It is currently unnecessary to limit entry into the park, but it may be in the future.

REDUCTION OF CONGESTION AND URBANIZATION

There will be a substantial reduction of impact caused by automobile traffic, especially in the Valley and Mariposa Grove. During the heavy use season, auto traffic in the eastern two-thirds of the Valley will be severely restricted, and it will be entirely eliminated from Mariposa Grove. Expanded shuttle systems will serve visitors to these areas. There will also be a substantial reduction of structures and parking in the Valley.

RECOGNITION OF INDIAN CULTURE

The traditional ties between Yosemite and the Miwok Indians and their ancestors will be recognized by a number of actions, including granting a special use permit to the American Indian Council of Mariposa County for the construction and operation of an Indian cultural center in the Valley.

INCREASE IN WILDERNESS

The existing wilderness proposal will be increased by 24,305 acres.

CHANGE IN CONCESSION OPERATIONS

Concession operations will be changed to become more closely aligned with park objectives. However, these proposals are not financially feasible under the existing concession arrangement. Nontraditional approaches to providing visitor services, such as subsidies and government ownership, will have to be employed.

ELIMINATION OF EXCLUSIVE USE OF PARK LANDS

All inholdings within the park boundaries will be acquired, with the exception of the lands directly related to the city of San Francisco's water and power operations at Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

IMPROVEMENT IN PARK OPERATIONS

Significant proposals to improve the operation and management of the park include district offices at Wawona and Hodgdon, improved maintenance facilities in areas outside the Valley to increase maintenance efficiency, and improved employee housing.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

This plan will provide the framework for a series of management programs, studies, and facility design and construction projects. The plan is expected to be fully implemented within 15 years.



Influences on Planning

PURPOSE OF THE PARK

There are two purposes for Yosemite National Park. The first is preservation of the resources that contribute to Yosemite's uniqueness and attractiveness — its exquisite scenic beauty; outstanding wilderness values; a nearly full diversity of Sierra Nevada environments, including the very special sequoia groves; the awesome domes, valleys, polished granites, and other evidences of the geologic processes that formed the Sierra Nevada; historic resources, especially those relating to the beginnings of a national conservation ethic; and evidences of the Indians that lived on the land. The second purpose is to make the varied resources of Yosemite available to people for their individual enjoyment, education, and recreation, now and in the future.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The National Park Service's mandate to administer Yosemite comes from Congress. Inherent in this mandate are obligations regarding resource management, visitor use, and park operations. These obligations are further defined and established as the management objectives for the General Management Plan. This plan and all other park management activities are directed toward achieving these basic goals.

Resource Management

Restore and maintain natural terrestrial, aquatic, and atmospheric ecosystems so they may operate essentially unimpaired

Conduct continuing research to gather and analyze information necessary for managing natural resources

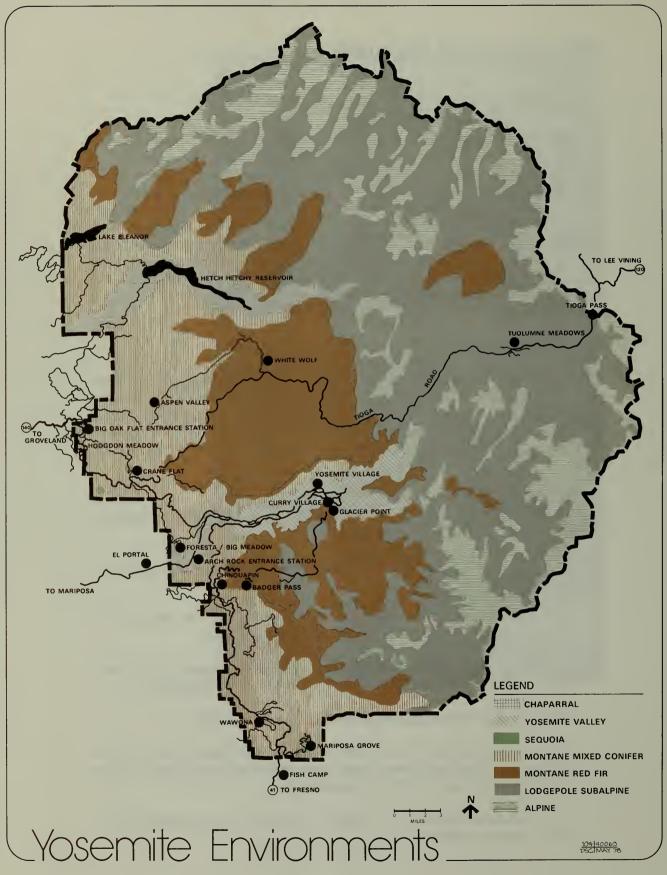
Restore altered ecosystems as nearly as possible to conditions they would be in today had natural ecological processes not been disturbed

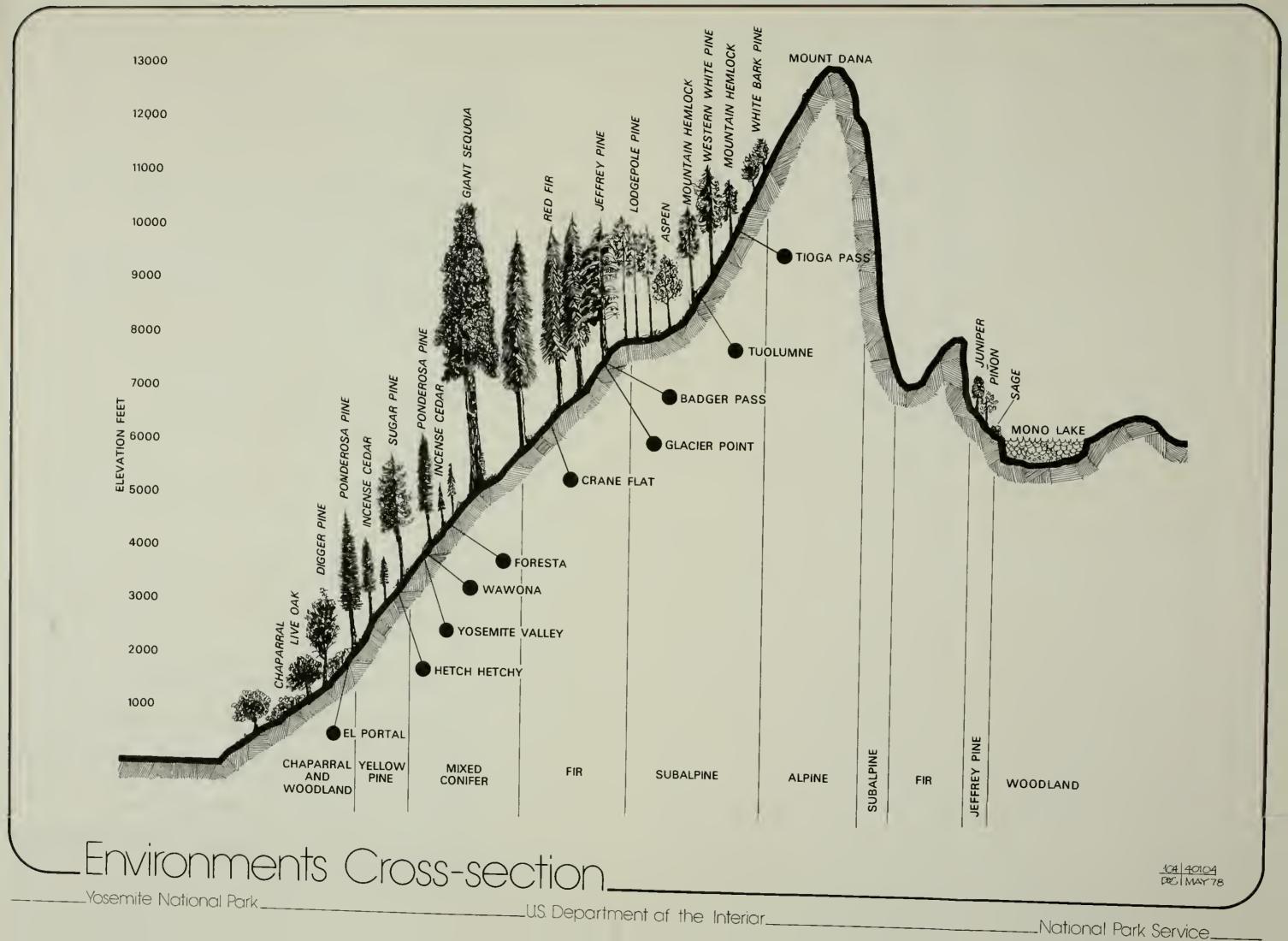
Protect threatened and endangered plant and animal species and reintroduce, where practical, those species eliminated from the natural ecosystems

Identify and perpetuate natural processes in park ecosystems

Permit only those types and levels of use or development that do not significantly impair park natural resources, and direct development and use to environments least vulnerable to deterioration

Limit unnatural sources of air, noise, visual, and water pollution to the greatest degree possible





Preserve, protect, and restore scenic resources

Identify the major scenic resources and the places from which they are viewed

Provide for the preservation or protection of existing scenic resources and viewing stations

Provide for historic views through vista clearing

Permit only those levels and types of use that are compatible with the preservation or protection of the scenic resources and with the quality of the viewing experience

Preserve, restore, or protect significant cultural resources (historic and prehistoric)

Identify, evaluate, and determine the significance of cultural resources, encompassing buildings, structures, sites, and objects

Provide for the preservation, restoration, or protection of these significant cultural resources

Permit only those uses that are compatible with the preservation of significant cultural resources

Visitor Use

Assist all people in understanding, enjoying, and contributing to the preservation of the natural, cultural, and scenic resources

Orient visitors, provide personal assistance, and inform them about opportunities the park provides

Provide interpretive services that relate the natural and cultural significance of Yosemite to visitors with a broad diversity of interests

Provide only for those types and levels of programs and activities that enhance visitor understanding and enjoyment of park resources

Permit only those levels and types of accommodations and services necessary for visitor use and enjoyment of Yosemite

Provide the opportunity for a quality wilderness experience

Provide transportation services that facilitate visitor circulation and enhance preservation and enjoyment of park resources

Park Operations

Maintain a safe, functional, and orderly environment that provides compatible opportunities for resource preservation and enjoyment by visitors and employees

Classify park lands, specifying their management and use, to ensure the achievement of all objectives

Provide facilities for administration, maintenance, and management at appropriate locations

Locate facilities to minimize exposure to natural hazards such as rockslides, flooding, avalanche, and hazard trees

Encourage an appropriate use of structures with historic, architectural, or engineering significance, consistent with the preservation of their historic fabric

Provide facilities and utility systems that conserve energy and comply with all applicable standards and codes

Protect the rights, safety, and security of all visitors and employees

Acquire lands and improvements (inholdings) or interests therein for park purposes as expeditiously as possible

Adjust park boundaries as required to preserve and provide for enjoyment of nationally significant resources, to complete ecological units insofar as possible, and/or to provide for more effective management

Provide, at appropriate locations, services and amenities conducive to a community environment for employees

Support an integrated system of compatible regional land uses providing opportunities for recreation, community development, preservation, and economic utilization of resources

Participate with government agencies and private interests in planning for compatible management and use of scenic, natural, cultural, and recreation resources

Promote visitor services and accommodations at sites more appropriate to the preservation of park values and the public interest through coordinated regional planning and encouragement of private enterprise outside the park

LAND MANAGEMENT ZONING

The park is divided into several zones based on management objectives, significance of the resources, and legislative constraints. The zoning plan describes the land use policies that management will work to achieve over the lifespan of this plan. These zones sometimes overlap, as in the case where outstanding natural features and highly significant archeological resources coincide in a designated area. As a result, management decisions must be based on equal recognition of both resources.

Natural Zone

Wilderness Subzone. All lands included in the administration's wilderness recommendation and lands proposed to be added to this recommendation make up this subzone. Natural systems and processes will be permitted to follow their courses with minimum intrusion by man. The number of visitors will be limited to levels which do not significantly affect natural environments.

Environmental Protection Subzone. Lands within this subzone have been dedicated to scientific research, and no management actions will be allowed that might interfere with this use.

Outstanding Natural Feature Subzone. This subzone contains natural features of outstanding significance which are not within proposed wilderness areas. Management will provide maximum protection from man's activities.

Natural Environment Subzone. Roads, picnicking areas, and trailheads are permitted in this subzone, but development will be minimal.

Cultural Zone

Historical Subzone. This subzone is comprised of architecturally and historically significant cultural resources. Management emphasis will be on preservation of these resources unless such action causes unacceptable alteration to natural resources or processes.

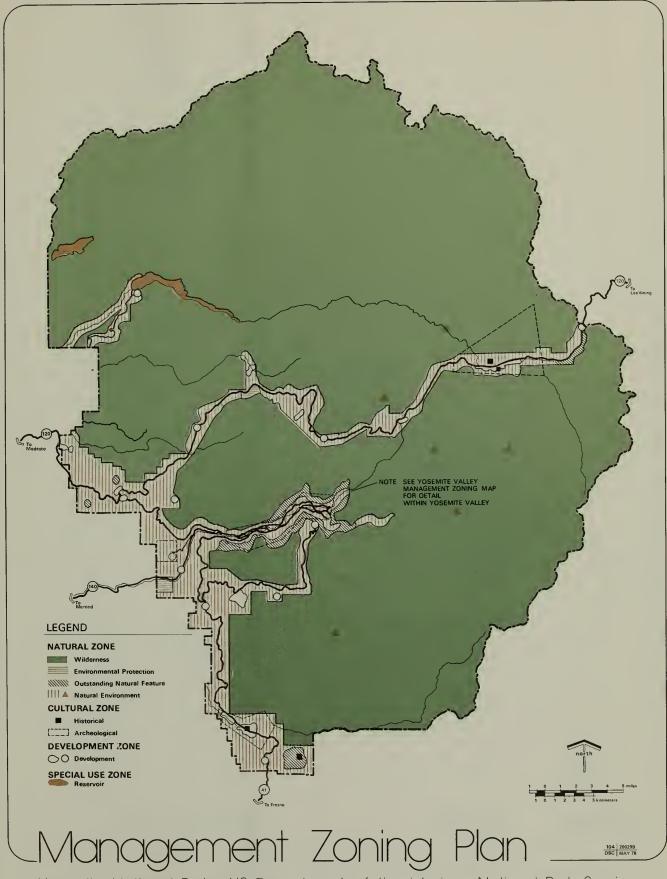
Archeological Subzone. This subzone is comprised of archeological districts and overlies several other zones. Management emphasis will be on preservation of the archeological resources within this subzone.

Development Zone

This zone contains developments required for visitor use and park operations. It will occupy the least amount of space necessary to achieve park objectives.

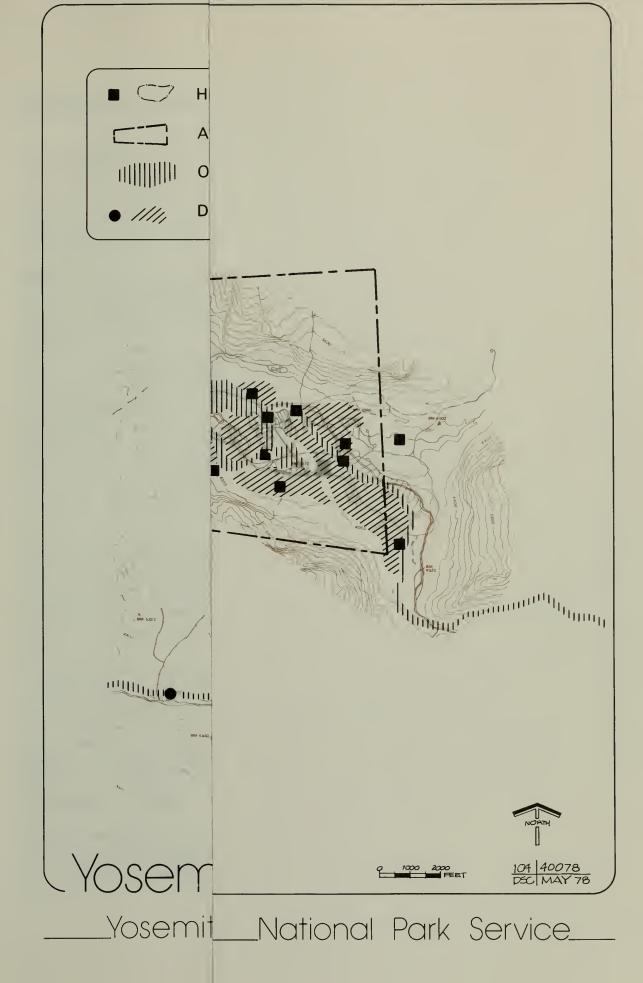
Special Use Zone

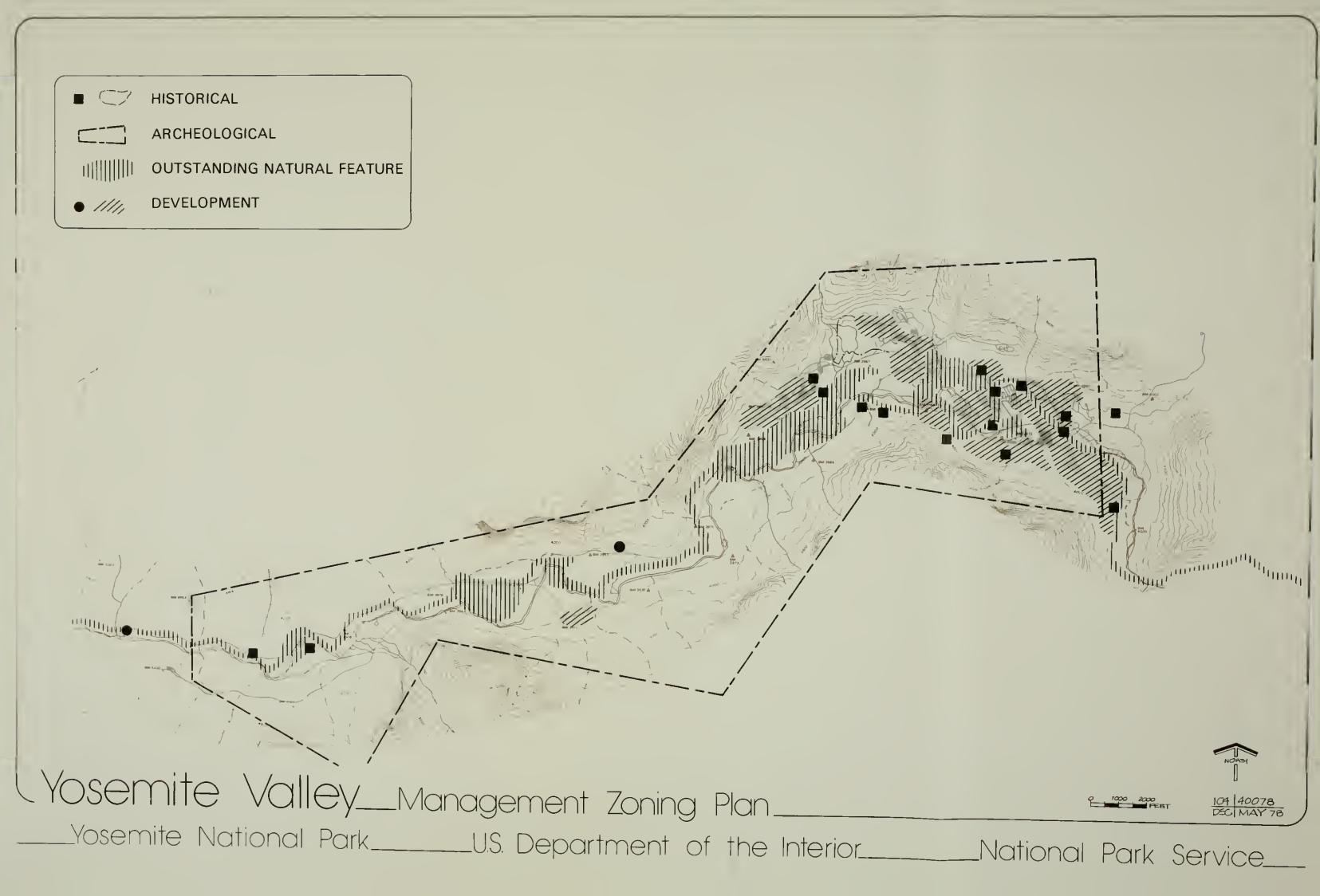
Reservoir Subzone. The reservoirs which comprise this subzone are managed by the San Francisco Water Department under terms of the Raker Act.



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Parkwide Policies and Programs

VISITOR USE

Appropriate activities will be encouraged, traditional and special programs will be maintained, access will be improved, and adequate facilities will be provided to help ensure a fulfilling experience for visitors to Yosemite.

Appropriate Activities

Visitors to Yosemite enjoy a great variety of traditional uses, and this variety must be retained to preserve the vitality of the park. Activities that take advantage of the park's natural features, rather than man-made facilities or mechanized equipment, are the most appropriate uses of the park. Picnicking, hiking, camping, fishing, rock climbing, river swimming, bicycling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and hang-gliding (under restricted conditions) are considered appropriate uses, but snowmobiling will be prohibited. Downhill skiing is a traditional activity that will be allowed to continue. Golfing, tennis, ice-skating, and swimming will not be allowed in the Valley, since they are not directly related to the significant resources. Golfing, tennis, and swimming will be allowed at Wawona where the associated facilities are part of the historic resort complex.

Visitor Use Levels

Appropriate overnight and day use levels for the various developed areas of the park will be achieved by limiting the number of overnight accommodations, campsites, and day parking spaces available to visitors. At the present time, it is not proposed to limit day use by controlling entry into the park, but this may be necessary sometime in the future.

The proposed overnight and day use levels for each developed area are listed in the following table. The overnight use level for the park will be 15,615 people, based on the combined capacities of overnight accommodations and campsites. The day use level is based on the amount of day parking that will be available and the number of day visitors who currently enter the park on tour buses. The day use level for Yosemite Valley will be lower than the level of use that is currently provided for. It will be reduced because a significant amount of parking will be removed from the Valley.

The day use level for the park backcountry has not been established, but overnight use of the backcountry will continue to be limited by a permit system based on changing environmental conditions in the individual backcountry travel zones.



Visitor Use Levels for Developed Areas

Developed Area	Day Use Level	Overnight Use Level
Yosemite Valley District		
Yosemite Valley - East End	6,675	7,662
— West End	3,855	0
Cascades/Arch Rock	360	0
El Portal	765	0
Wawona District		
Chinquapin	810	0
Badger Pass	3,300	0
Bridalveil Campground/		
Summit Meadow	360	490
Glacier Point	7,650	0
Wawona	1,689	1,622
South Entrance Station	4,525	0
Mariposa Grove	3,850	0
Mather District		
Tioga Pass	540	0
Tuolumne Meadows	1,485	2,048
White Wolf	45	675
Tenaya Lake Area	720	0
Crane Flat	900	800
Tioga Road Campgrounds	0	1,200
Hodgdon Meadow	540	800
Foresta	90	30
Hetch Hetchy	1,080	120
Merced Grove	405	0
High Sierra Camps	0	168

Overnight Accommodations

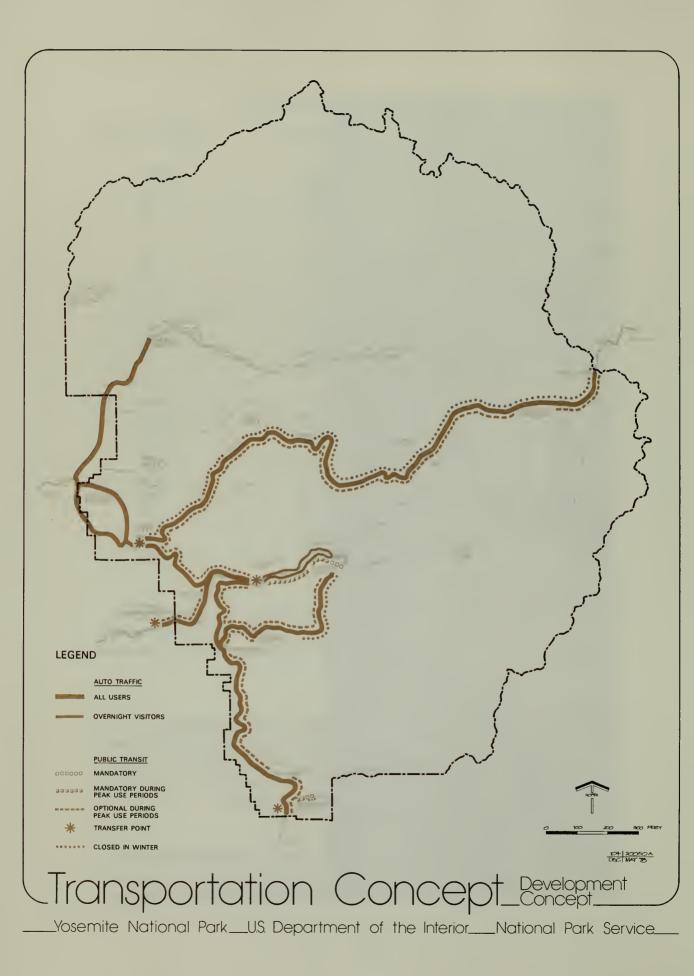
A full range of overnight accommodations will continue to be provided; however, no attempt will be made to meet all the demands for accommodations inside the park because it will require an unacceptable level of development. The number of accommodations will be reduced to 1,542 units.

Campgrounds

Yosemite will continue to provide for a wide range of camping opportunities. The number of campsites within the park will increase to 2,502 sites. Some sites will be relocated to zones more suitable for man's activities in order to protect sensitive resources and increase manageability. Consistent with this policy, campgrounds will be dispersed more evenly throughout the park.

Transportation

The National Park Service is committed to reduce the effects of private automobiles on the park experience and resources. The private automobile will be strictly controlled or completely excluded from the most sensitive and popular



places in the park when it is economically feasible to do so, and when alternative methods of transportation are acceptable.

The first phase of implementation of this policy includes further restrictions on traffic at Mariposa Grove and in Yosemite Valley, with concommitant increases in shuttle bus transportation and experimental staging areas at Crane Flat and El Portal. In addition, the National Park Service will encourage visitors to use public transit or charter bus.

For the life of this plan, Routes 41, 120, and 140 will probably continue to function as auto touring through-routes and summertime trans-Sierra connectors.

Interpretation

The interpretive program is essential to the fulfillment of the Yosemite experience. The following goals for interpretation are intended to assist visitors in understanding, enjoying, and contributing to the preservation of the scenic, natural, and cultural resources of the park.

Orient visitors, provide personal assistance, and inform them about opportunities available in the park. Information and orientation of visitors is critical. These services are proposed to be decentralized and provided where they can best serve visitor needs — through the public media, at urban and regional information/reservation centers, and at park entrances and developed areas. Informing people prior to their visit will allow them more time to enjoy the park and free park space for other uses.

Provide interpretive services that relate the natural and cultural significance of Yosemite to visitors with a broad diversity of interests. The natural and cultural significance of the park is reflected in the following park interpretive themes.

Scenery – the unique and spectacular visual attributes of Yosemite

Domes, cliffs, meadows, forests, rivers, and waterfalls in Yosemite Valley

Towering peaks, ridges, deep canyons, lakes and streams, meadows, forests, and giant sequoia groves in the High Sierra surrounding the Valley

Biotic Systems and Geology — the natural processes that modify the land, the life forms that occupy it, and the processes and interrelationships that govern it

The geologic land base and its origins, composition, processes, and present forms; its characteristics (attributes, tolerances, and capacities); and its geologic future

The climatic variations of the High Sierra (its winds, altitudes, temperatures, rain, and snowfall) and their effect upon its life communities, including that of man

Yosemite's life communities — plants and animals and the balance and interdependence of all life forms and processes; present and future endangered species

Wilderness/Conservation — the intangible and tangible values

The concept of wilderness — what it is in terms of both the environment and the mind; the principles of conservation and their scientific basis

The human uses of wilderness — the human values of wilderness (societal, personal, spiritual, and physical); the scientific values of wilderness; the myriad forms of exploitation and their consequences; choices and alternatives

The history of the wilderness idea and the conservation movement — early wilderness advocates (those instrumental in preserving Yosemite); the establishment and early administration of the park

Man and Yosemite - different times, cultures, values, and impacts

Yosemite's native people — the story of the cultures of Native Americans in Yosemite before and after European contact; their lives and settlements, their material and social culture, their values, their fate, and their future

European people in Yosemite – their views, uses of, and relationships to Yosemite

Recreation — Yosemite as a special place for recreation

The human need for physical and mental recreation congruent with the park's primary purpose — activities that can be appropriately enjoyed at Yosemite; programs for doing, thinking, dreaming, and being in relationship to Yosemite's resources

Interpretive programs will be provided to satisfy the mental, emotional, and physical needs of a variety of visitors who have different socioeconomic backgrounds, physical skills, and social and recreational interests. Facilities and media that provide interpretation for people with different educational and socioeconomic backgrounds simultaneously (such as personal services and museums) will be emphasized to reach a wider spectrum of interest levels and to stimulate growth and understanding. Language, sight, hearing, and understanding barriers will be minimized through a variety of interpretive media and specialized personal services. Certain groups or individuals may require special interpretive programs.

Special facilities will be provided for students. Personal services and varied interpretive media will meet the needs of most visitors having active recreational interests.

Provide only for those types and levels of programs and activities that enhance visitor understanding and enjoyment of park resources. All interpretive facilities and activities will relate only to the park's interpretive themes and its resources. Programs that are indirectly related to the park resources, such as square dancing in Yosemite Valley and the study of nonindigenous Indian cultures, will not be provided. The visitor experience will consist of opportunities for educational and park-related recreational pursuits such as walking and hiking, backpacking, and Merced River floating.

Provide the opportunity for a superior wilderness experience. The wilderness experience will be enhanced by a more efficient permit system and by interpretive programs that encourage good wilderness practices. The value of Yosemite's wilderness and the history of its conservation will be interpreted for visitors as an introduction to the backcountry. Nonprofit wilderness-related interpretive experiences will be provided for visitors on the High Sierra camp loop trails. Roving backcountry rangers will provide interpretation, information, and visitor assistance.

Provide interpretive services on public transportation systems. Information will be provided aboard all in-park systems, along with unobtrusive interpretive messages relating good park use and enjoyment of the resources. Some transportation systems will provide general introductory interpretive programs or tours. Tour programs for special groups, such as park geology tours for senior visitors, may be provided.

Concessions

The National Park Service will continue to rely on private business to provide most commercial visitor services, as long as it is economically feasible. If this arrangement becomes infeasible, other actions may become necessary such as the government subsidizing private business with required capital investment, increasing prices charged the public in concert with the principal of comparability, or the government providing structures and contracting the services.

The use of facilities by conventions or group meetings will be allowed subject to guidelines designed to prevent interference with the rights of the general visiting public.

Provisions for Physically Disabled Visitors

Special provisions will be made to ensure an enjoyable park experience for physically disabled visitors. They will be allowed to drive their automobiles in areas served by shuttle bus, with special permission from the superintendent. All developed areas will be accessible to and usable by the physically disabled visitor. Existing facilities will be modified and future facilities will be designed to accommodate them.

INDIAN CULTURAL PROGRAMS

Because Indian people have inhabited the park for at least 2,000 years (and Indian tradition maintains that they were created here), their continued use of the park is as important as preserving the wildlife and natural surroundings. The culture and traditions of the Miwok Indians and their ancestors enhance the meaning and sacred nature of Yosemite. Through an understanding of local Indian culture and traditions, the public will have an opportunity to gain a greater respect for the natural wonders of the park and their significance to a different culture. Consequently, it is the policy of the National Park Service to recognize the culture and the religious tradition of the Miwok and their ancestors in the park's plans and programs, as long as this policy is consistent with the values for which Yosemite was made a national park. The Park Service will continue to work with the Mariposa Indian Council to implement this plan.

The Yosemite Indian people, through the Mariposa Indian Council, will be encouraged to practice their traditional ceremonies in the park and to share their traditions, culture, and history with other park visitors. An Indian cultural center may be constructed and operated in Yosemite Valley at the Three Brothers site near El Capitan by the American Indian Council of Mariposa County under a special use permit. The special use permit will stress that only bonafide traditional Indian ceremonies and activities will occur, that the center will be available to the public, and that there will be no permanent private or residential use. The center will provide a unique opportunity for visitors to become aware of the local Indian culture and will also help the Indian culture of Yosemite to remain a living culture.

The center will be accessible to all visitors, but it will be located away from the mainstream of interpretive and commercial activities so that incompatible uses do not conflict with center activities. The atmosphere must be proper for traditional ceremonies and private enough to conduct sacred ceremonies in a dignified and traditional manner. It will consist of a traditional roundhouse, a sweat lodge, and several *umachas* (bark tepees). Sanitary facilities will be the only nontraditional structure.

The Indian museum in Yosemite Valley is an appropriate beginning for recognizing the Indian culture. It will be expanded in the future as part of the museum of Man in Yosemite, and the existing Indian Garden will be retained.

PARK OPERATIONS

Administration, Maintenance, and Employee Housing

Parkwide administrative and maintenance headquarters for the National Park Service and the concessioner will be centralized at El Portal. Facilities related to district operations will be decentralized and located in the Yosemite Valley, Wawona, and Mather Districts. Facilities essential to daily operations of developed areas will remain. Law enforcement facilities will be located in areas where the most problems occur. Employees will live near their work site in order to improve service to the public and to reduce commuting.

Adaptive use of historic structures for housing, offices, interpretation, or accommodations will be encouraged if original uses are changed.

Conservation of Energy, Water, and Materials

Design techniques and application of new technology to reduce energy and water consumption will be emphasized in the design of new facilities, and present recylcing programs for waste materials will be increased.

BOUNDARY CHANGES, LAND ACQUISITION, AND WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

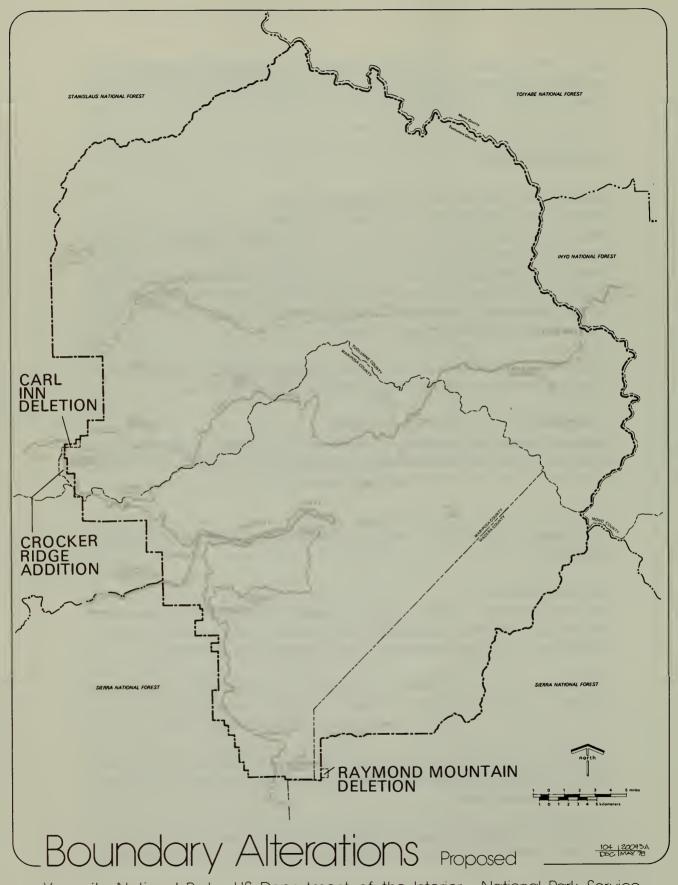
Boundary Changes

The following minor boundary changes will simplify management of the park by bringing park facilities under National Park Service jurisdiction or by deleting unneeded sections. These changes will require congressional authorization.

The 691-acre Crocker Ridge addition will bring that section of Big Oak Flat Road (California 120) inside the park boundary and provide an adjacent buffer strip. The land proposed for inclusion is federal land within Stanislaus National Forest.

The deletion of the 200-acre Carl Inn will exclude land needed by the U.S. Forest Service to enlarge an existing campground. It is proposed to transfer the land to Stanislaus National Forest.

The 160-acre Raymond Mountain deletion will transfer land outside the park boundary which has been administered by the Forest Service under a



_Yosemite National Park__U.S. Department of the Interior.__National Park Service_

memorandum of understanding. The land was originally acquired to provide water to Mariposa Grove, and the water transmission line crosses the area. It is proposed to transfer the land to Sierra National Forest.

Land Acquisition

The National Park Service will continue to acquire fee title to all lands within Yosemite in order to promote the undisrupted functioning of natural systems and to eliminate conflicting land uses that interrupt visitor enjoyment.

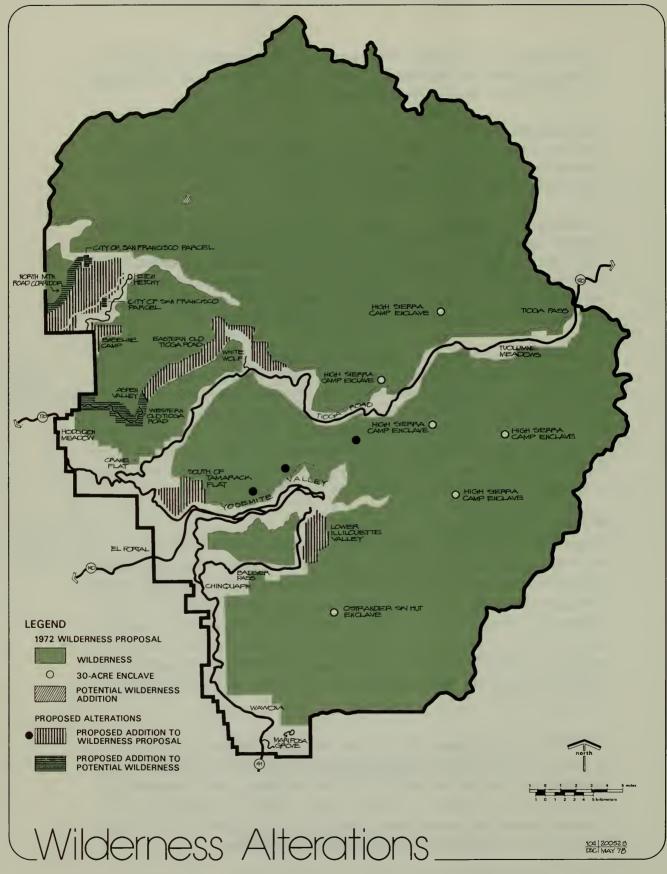
Underlying fee title will be acquired by exchange or donation for all city of San Francisco lands except those directly associated with primary day-to-day water and power operations. This will allow detached backcountry parcels to be reclassified as wilderness. The city now holds substantial lands in the northern half of the park. The city's use of lands at Hetch Hetchy and Lake Eleanor for water supply and power will continue under terms of the Raker Act.

All privately owned land at Aspen Valley, Section 35, and Foresta will be purchased as quickly as possible on a willing seller/willing buyer basis, or by eminent domain proceedings when necessary to preserve and protect the park as Congress authorized. Structures on these lands will be razed and the lands will be returned to a natural condition. All applicable provisions of Public Law 91-646, the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, will be honored, and affected county governments will be compensated with payments in lieu of taxes in accordance with Public Law 94-565.

Additions to Wilderness

Certain lands (see following table) will be reclassified as wilderness or potential wilderness, changing the management policies for these areas. Potential wilderness classification will prevent any further development of facilities or services; should existing developments be removed, there will be no reconstruction of facilities. Wilderness classification will require the eventual elimination of all improvements that do not conform with wilderness activities. Use of wilderness areas will be restricted to activities that are compatible with the definition of wilderness as cited in the *Wilderness Recommendation for Yosemite National Park* (National Park Service, 1972).

All additional lands proposed for potential and actual wilderness classification will be protected from further development. Areas that will not undergo physical alterations as a result of the reclassification are the lands south of Tamarack Flat, the lower Illilouette Valley, the Hetch Hetchy roadless area, the city of San Francisco parcels, and the enclaves on the north rim of Yosemite Valley. These lands include well over half the area of the proposed additions.

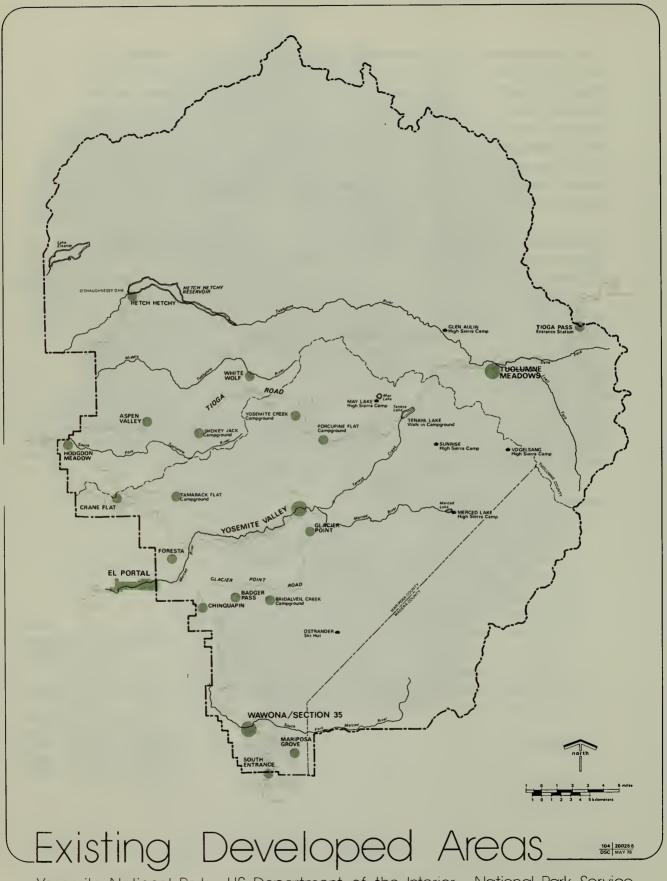


Four road segments will be abandoned and restored to a natural condition: 7 miles of the eastern portion and 6 miles of the western portion of the Old Tioga Road; the North Mountain Road between Wilderness Unit 5 and Hetch Hetchy roadless area; and the road to the baseline camp east of Mather. The North Mountain Road and the eastern portion of the Old Tioga Road have been closed to the public. The western portion of Old Tioga Road will be closed after removal of the pavement from some areas, and private development will be removed before the road is abandoned. Historically significant drainage structures will be recorded before their removal or deterioration.

This proposal will not affect management or maintenance of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir or O'Shaughnessy Dam, nor will it affect the size of the High Sierra camp enclaves.

Proposed Additions to Wilderness Yosemite National Park (in acres)

		Potential
	Wilderness	Wilderness
1972 Wilderness Recommendation	646,700	121
Proposed Additions		
Lower Illilouette Valley	2,580	
South of Tamarack Flat	2,975	
7 miles of eastern Old Tioga Road corridor	6,400	
6 miles of western Old Tioga Road corridor		3,020
Hetch Hetchy roadless area	7,380	
North Mountain Road corridor		
(near Hetch Hetchy roadless area)		830
3 enclaves on north rim of		
Yosemite Valley	90	
Baseline camp area	790	
City of San Francisco parcels		240
Subtotal	20,215	4,090
T . I		
Total	666,915	4,211



Developed Area Plans

YOSEMITE VALLEY DISTRICT

Yosemite Valley

Yosemite Valley is the heart of Yosemite National Park — its most inspiring and popular attraction. The Merced River, the meadows and forests that form its bottomlands, and the spectacular cliffs and waterfalls create one of the grandest natural settings that exist anywhere in the world.

Within this setting, which is both serene and exhilarating, the experience is different for everyone. Picnicking along the Merced River or reading in a flowered meadow is relaxing and calm; a Valley scenic tour or historic walk is inspirational and educational; and a three-day climb on El Capitan is exciting and challenging.

The one thing these experiences have in common is that they make people feel a part of the place. This feeling would be enhanced by freeing people from the perceptions of commercialization and urbanization. They must be able to relax, learn, and meet nature's challenges without the distractions that destroy the spectacular and friendly nature of the area.

The National Park Service proposes eventually to remove all automobile traffic from the Valley. However, at the present time and in the foreseeable future, it is economically and technologically infeasible. Therefore, interim proposals are being made to reduce traffic in parts of the Valley. Visitors will be allowed to drive their automobiles to overnight accommodations or a central parking area in the Valley, but they will be restricted in driving their automobiles during their stay. Visitors will also be encouraged to leave their automobiles at experimental parking areas outside the Valley from where bus service will be available. If this system proves feasible, the next step will be to allow only overnight visitors to enter the Valley and to require other visitors to park in centralized parking areas outside. The final step will be to remove all overnight traffic from the Valley.

Other proposals for the Valley are designed to reduce impacts on the most significant natural resources and to return the Valley to as near its natural condition as possible. A full range of visitor services and accommodations will be provided, but more open space will be created in the Valley to allow for a more resource-oriented visitor experience. Congestion and conflicts between activities will be minimized by relocating nonessential functions to El Portal and by separating commercial and interpretive areas wherever possible. In order to minimize energy spent on commuting and conflicts between visitor and employee traffic, all employees who work in the Valley will live near their jobs.

Unacceptable living conditions for both seasonal and permanent employees will be improved.

The primary interpretive themes in the Valley will be scenery and biotic systems and geology. A secondary, but important emphasis, will be given to man and Yosemite, recreation, and wilderness/conservation.

Interpretation in the Valley will provide a general overview of the entire park as well as in-depth treatment of each theme in the natural history museum, the museum of Man in Yosemite, and the Happy Isles nature center. Historic sites and structures will be used as exhibits, adding to the variety and richness of the interpretive experience, and personal contact between interpreters and visitors will be emphasized.

Summary of Major Changes Yosemite Valley

The	proposal	ramayar.	

banking, beauty shop, barber, dentist, car rental, heavy maintenance, school, NPS and YP&CC headquarters, YP&CC garage, swimming pools, golf course, tennis courts, Yosemite Institute, and Yosemite Natural History Association offices

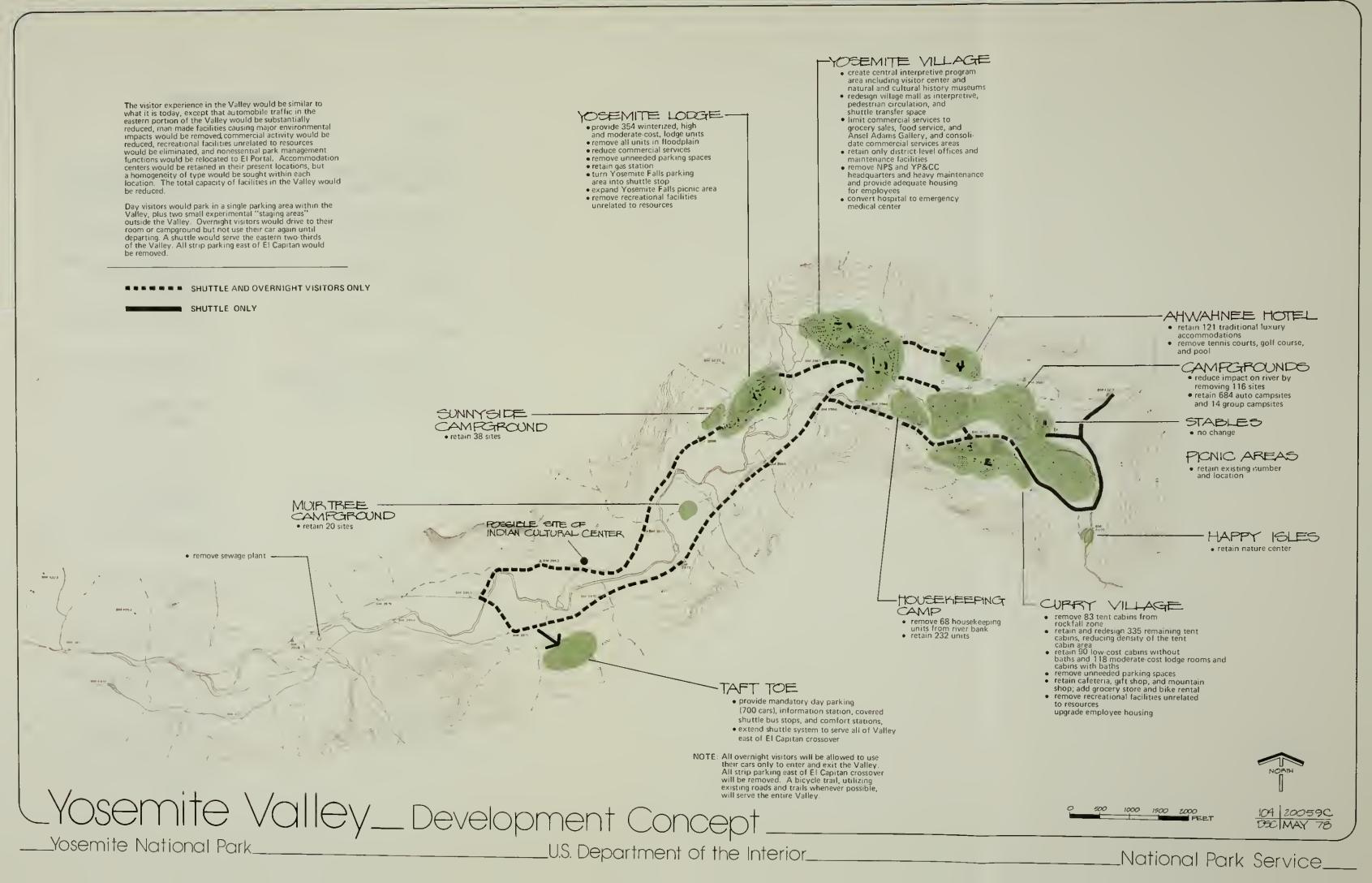
reduces:

accommodations, campsites, clothing sales, gift shops, parking, auto movement, water use, employee housing, and gas stations

increases:

shuttle bus routes, bicycling opportunities, natural landscape, interpretive opportunities, scenic quality, and air quality

	Existing	Proposed	Change
Total acres impacted	339.8	286.1	- 53.7
Accommodations (total)	1,528	1,250	- 278
Luxury (\$36-\$46/night)	121	121	0
High (\$29-\$35/night)	274	274	0
Moderate (\$18-\$28/night)	218	198	- 20
Low (\$7-\$17/night)	915	657	- 258
Day Parking Spaces	2,513	1,271	-1,242
Campsites	872	756	- 116
Employees Housed (summer)	1,406	1,240	- 166



Yosemite Lodge Area

Goals

Visitor Use Provide year-round visitor accommodations and campground

Increase operational efficiency of all accommodations

Provide new, frequently requested moderate-cost accommodations

Provide food, gas, and gift sales services

Remove facilities from flood hazard areas to avoid personal injury and recurrent structural damage

Park Operations Provide adequate housing for essential employees

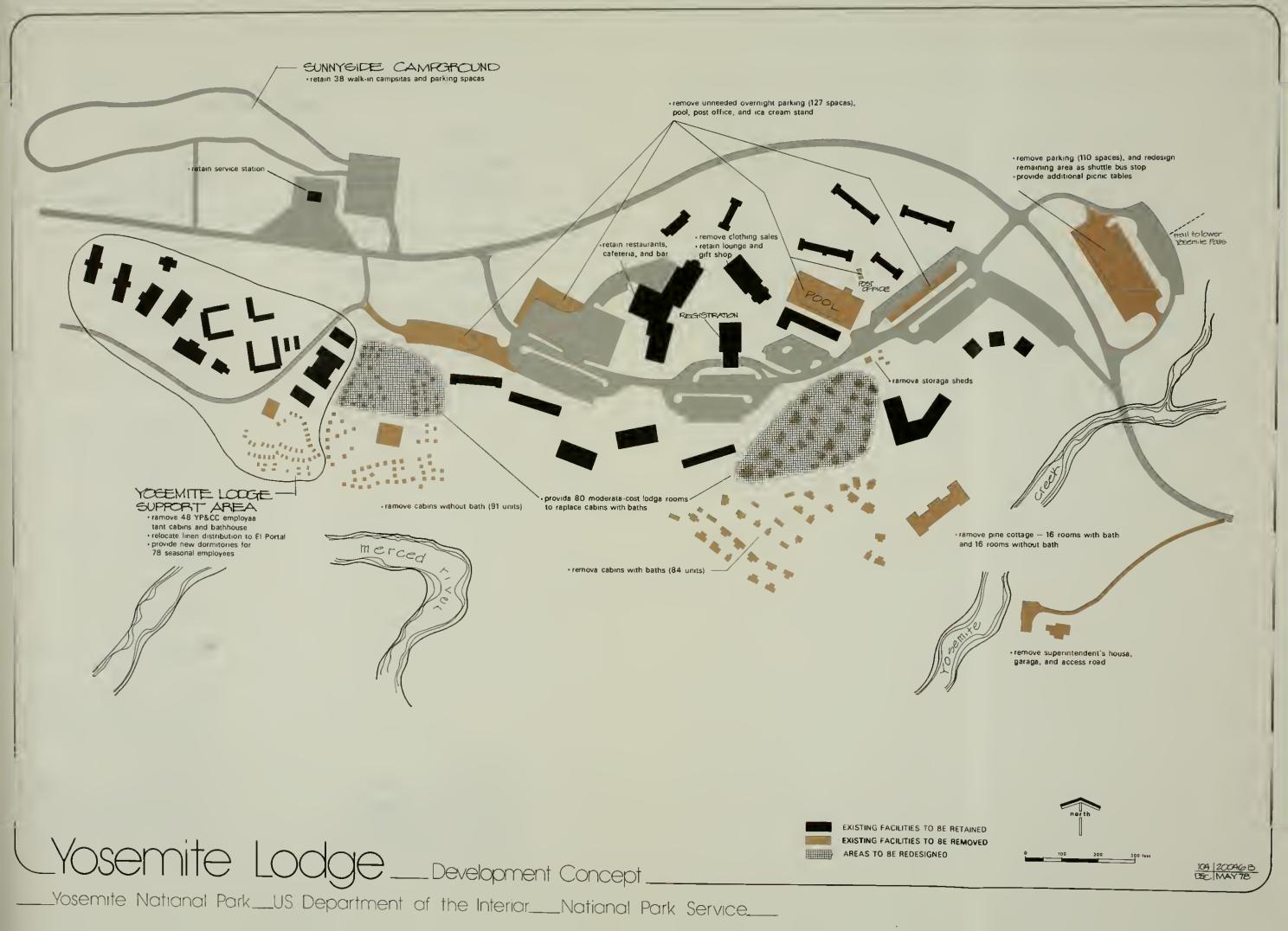
Actions

Visitor Use

- Remove 84 cabin-with-bath units and replace with moderate-cost lodge units containing 80 rooms
- Remove 91 cabin-without-bath units
- Remove Pine Cottage, containing 16 with-bath units and 16 without-bath units
- Remove 127 overnight parking spaces
- Remove swimming pool, post office, and ice cream stand
- Remove clothing sales, use space for interpretation/information
- Retain 274 motel units
- Retain gift shop, restaurants, cafeteria, and bar in their present locations and capacities
- Retain Sunnyside walk-in campground, 38 sites
- Retain gas station at existing service levels
- Redesign Yosemite Falls parking area into shuttle bus stop, removing 110 day parking sites
- Provide additional picnic tables at Yosemite Falls parking area

Park Operations

- Remove 48 Yosemite Park & Curry Company employee tent cabins
- Provide dormitory units for 78 employees



Yosemite Village Area

Goals

Visitor Use

Interpret the natural and cultural environments

Provide food and postal services

Redesign visitor facilities to blend with the natural environment

Phase out other facilities and activities that are not directly related to resource enjoyment or that exceed visitor demand

Park Operations

Retain functions and facilities that are essential to the operation of the district: maintenance for Valley facilities, NPS stables, emergency medical care, and housing for essential employees

Actions

Visitor Use

- Redesign village mall area to remove parking spaces and include interpretive spaces, pedestrian circulation areas, and shuttle bus stops
- Redesign the interior of the visitor center
- Retain bank building for food service
- Remove all parking behind the Village Store except for a maximum of 50 spaces for service and employee needs
- Adaptively use the NPS headquarters building, the old museum, and the post office to accommodate a natural history museum, a museum of Man in Yosemite, Valley district offices, and a self-service post office
- Remove Degnans, which includes a restaurant, fast-food service, delicatessen, and gift sales
- Remove Pohono Gift Shop
- Remove service station
- Remove barber and beauty functions, car rental, and garage
- Redesign Village Store for grocery sales, YP&CC offices, and fast-food service (remove gift, clothing, and sports sales)

Park Operations

- Convert the hospital/dental building to an emergency medical center with employee housing in dental office
- Relocate dental office to El Portal

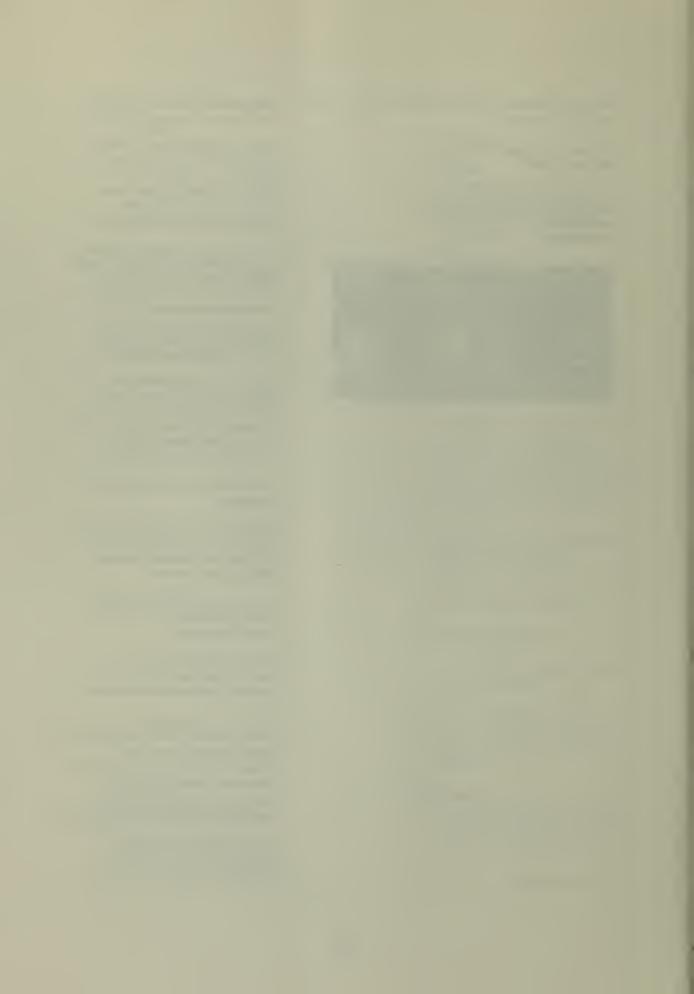
Remove nonessential functions and facilities to El Portal

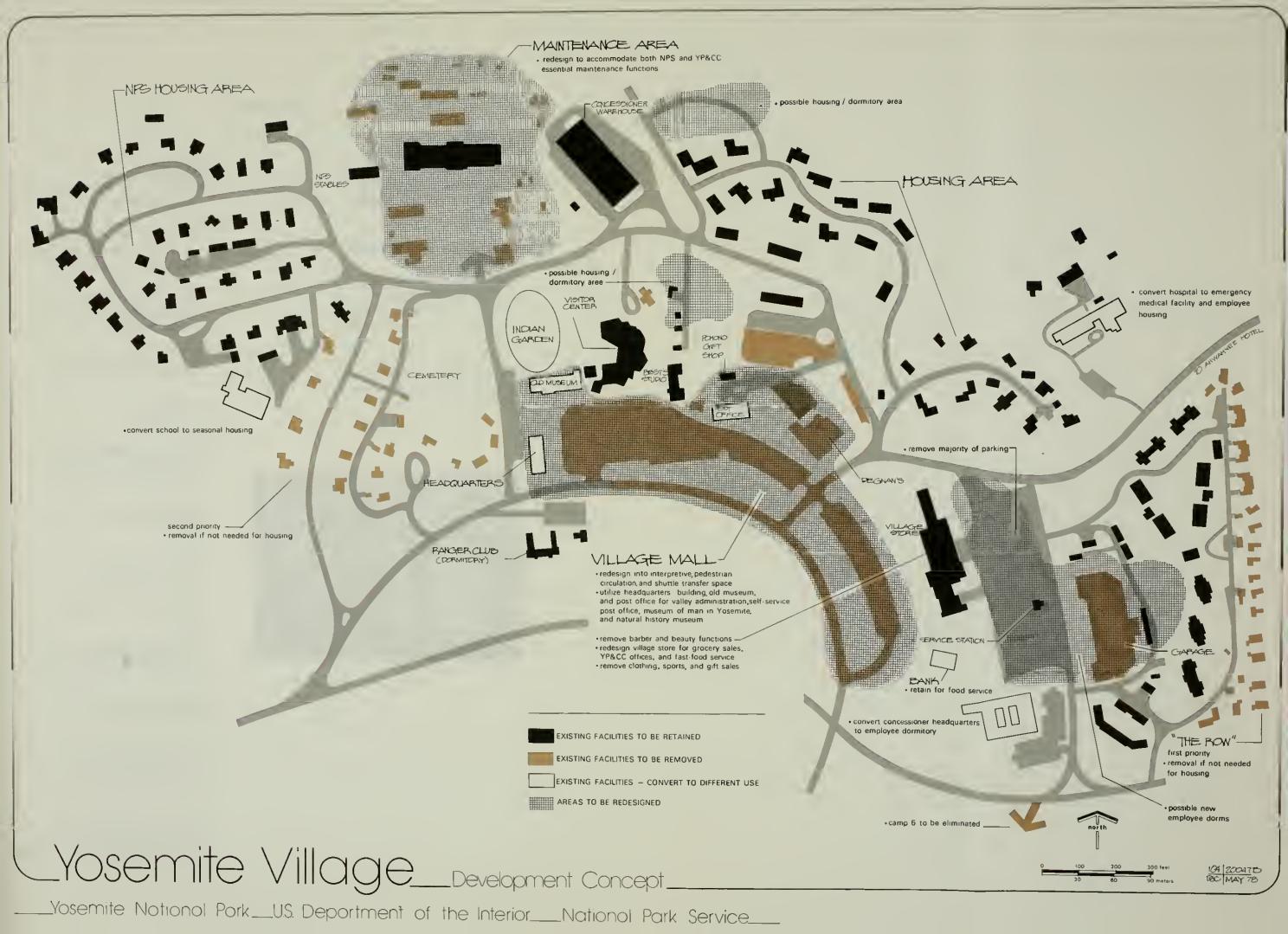
Consolidate essential functions of NPS and YP&CC

Give first priority to removing nonessential housing from river and meadow edges and from visitor activity areas



- Relocate administrative offices of the Yosemite Institute to EI Portal
- Relocate Yosemite Natural History
 Association office to El Portal
- Relocate elementary schooling to El Portal and use the building as seasonal NPS employees' dormitory
- Renovate the NPS maintenance area to accommodate both NPS and YP&CC essential maintenance functions remaining in the Valley, including shuttle bus maintenance
- Retain the NPS stables, detention center, and magistrate's office
- Relocate nonessential NPS and YP&CC personnel, plus employees of the school, Pacific Telephone Company, Wells Fargo Bank, Yosemite Institute, post office, Yosemite Church, and dentist to El Portal
- Use vacated housing for essential employees
- Remove seasonal housing from Camp 6 (79 NPS and 86 YP&CC units) and construct seasonal dormitories or adapt unused facilities
- Construct 90 additional dormitory units in the Upper Tecoya area for seasonal employees
- Remove YP&CC administrative functions and use the building as seasonal employee accommodations
- Based on a housing study to be accomplished as a part of comprehensive design planning, remove the 22 Ahwahnee Row houses and 21 houses in the southern part of the NPS residential area if they are not needed for permanent employee housing
- Remove facilities and restore
 Church Bowl area to a natural condition





Curry Village

Goals

Visitor Use Provide several types of accommodations, primarily in the lowcost range

Reduce the density of tent cabins

Provide facilities and services consistent with the historical setting of Curry Village and the natural and scenic resources of the Valley

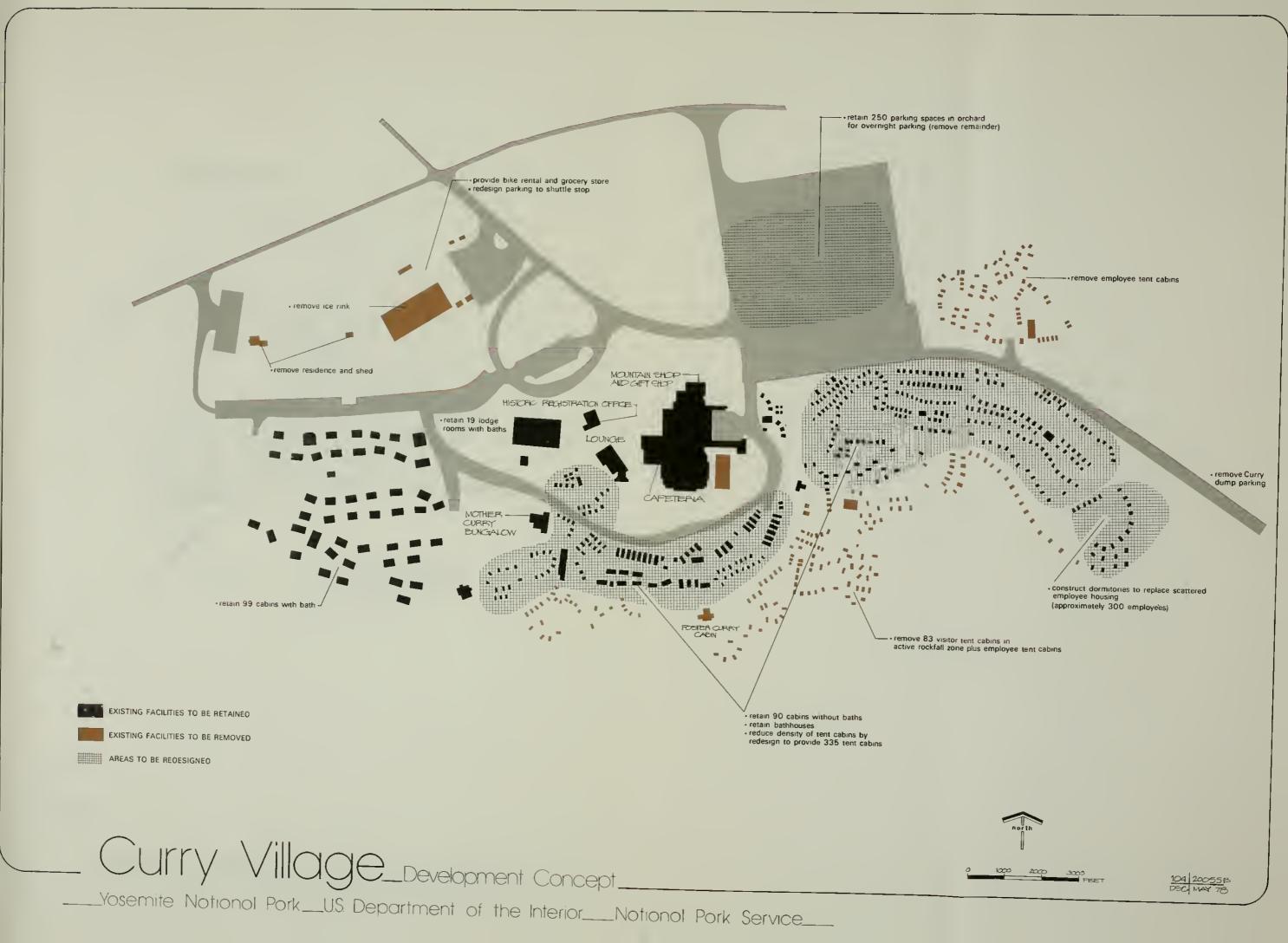
Remove facilities from geologically hazardous areas to avoid personal injury and structural damage

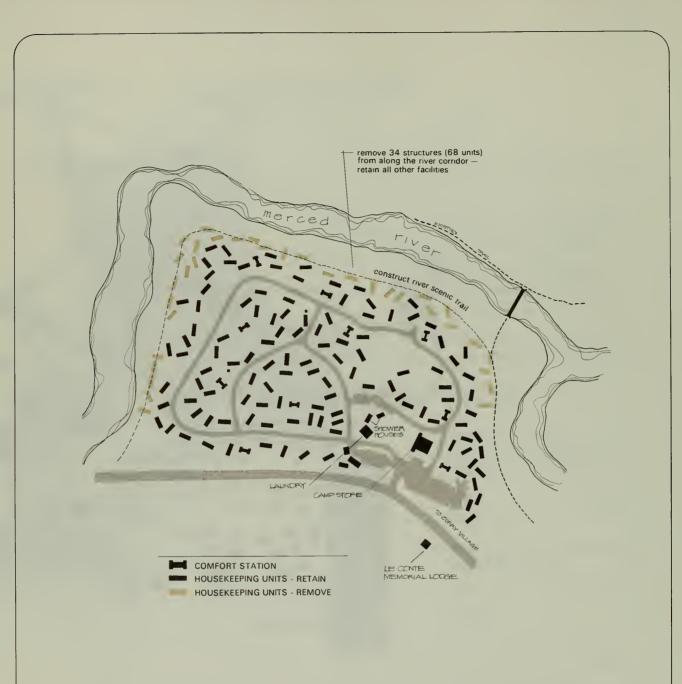


Actions

Visitor Use

- Remove about 83 visitor tent cabins from the rockfall zone
- Redesign visitor tent cabin area to provide up to 335 tent cabins (up to 200 new and 135 old)
- Retain the 99 cabin-with-bath,
 19 lodge-with-bath, and 90 cabin-without-bath units
- Retain historic registration office and Mother Curry's bungalow
- Retain cafeteria, gift shop, and mountain shop
- Remove swimming pool, ice rink, and Foster Curry cabin, shed, and residence west of ice rink
- Provide a grocery store and bike rental
- Retain 415 paved parking spaces for overnight visitors
- Remove parking at ice rink (25 spaces)
- Remove shoulder parking at east end of tent cabin area (10 spaces)
- Remove Curry dump parking (161 spaces) and restore area
- Remove 68 housekeeping units (34 structures), retain 232 units, and construct foot trail around perimeter of development
- Phase out overflow parking and implement a gradual restoration of part of the orchard area, including apple tree and roadway removal







Housekeeping Camp Development Concept __

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_Yosemite National Park__U.S. Department of the Interior__National Park Service_

Park Operations

Relocate employee housing out of geologically hazardous areas

Park Operations

- Construct dormitories and parking to accommodate about 300 employees
- Remove about 160 employee tent cabins

Ahwahnee Hotel

Goals

Visitor Use

Retain the traditional Ahwahnee character and level of service, but remove outdoor activities which are not directly related to the natural resource

Actions

Visitor Use

- Retain the 99 Ahwahnee hotel rooms and 22 cabin rooms
- Retain the dining room, gift shop, bar, and other services
- Retain 132-car parking area
- Remove the swimming pool
- Remove the tennis courts.
- Remove the golf course

Campgrounds

Goals

Visitor Use Provide a variety of camping opportunities

Remove facilities that are sources of impact on riparian areas

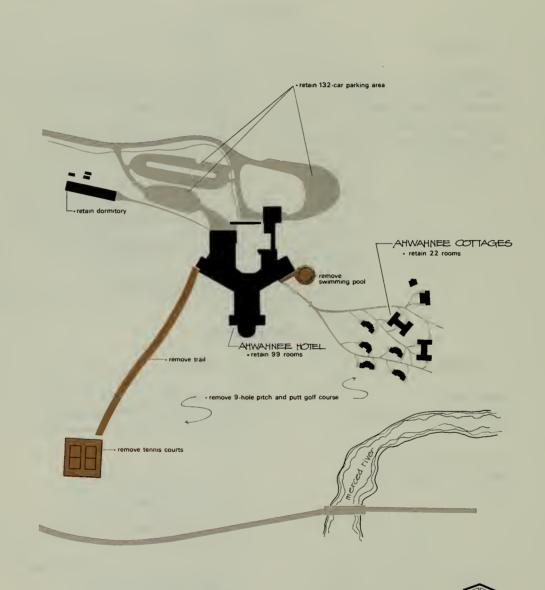
Actions

Visitor Use

 Remove campground sites and other development adjacent to the Merced River:

Upper Pine Campground (18 units) Lower Pine Campground (22 units) North Pine Campground (25 units) Upper River Campground (15 units) Lower River Campground (36 units) Total: 116 units

- Retain Muir Tree and Sunnyside walk-in campgrounds (58 sites) and group campground (14 sites)
- Retain 684 auto campsites
- Retain existing provisions for winter camping, based on demand



Ahwahnee Hotel__Development Concept.

_Yosemite National Park__U.S. Department of the Interior__National Park Service_

Other Valley Areas

Goals

Visitor Use

Centralize day parking

Create opportunities for bicycling throughout the Valley

Retain resource-related visitor activities

Remove facilities from significant scenic areas

Provide for Indian cultural activities

Remove excessive day parking spaces

Actions

Visitor Use

- Construct a 700-vehicle day
 parking area for peak season use at
 Taft Toe with covered shuttle bus stops,
 a manned information/reservation station,
 and comfort stations
- Provide a 16-mile bike trail along both sides of the river, using existing roads and trails wherever possible
- Remove strip parking at the east end of the valley:

Along Northside Drive from El Capitan Crossover to Yosemite Village (281 spaces)

Along Northside Drive from Yosemite Village to Stoneman Bridge (72 spaces)

Church Bowl (30 spaces)

From Stoneman Bridge to Happy Isles (96 spaces)

North side of Ahwahnee Meadow (55 spaces)

Sentinel Crossover (71 spaces)

Along Southside Drive from Sentinel Bridge to Stoneman Bridge (193 spaces)

Total: 798 spaces

- Remove Degnan residence and Masonic Hall.
- Remove superintendent's home, garage, and access road

- Retain existing number and capacity of picnic areas
- Retain YP&CC stables, Happy Isles nature center, Le Conte Memorial Lodge, and Yosemite Valley chapel
- Construct Indian cultural center at the Three Brothers site

Park Operations

Retain essential support personnel and facilities

Relocate nonessential functions to El Portal

Upgrade water systems and eliminate unnecessary wastewater treatment facilities

Park Operations

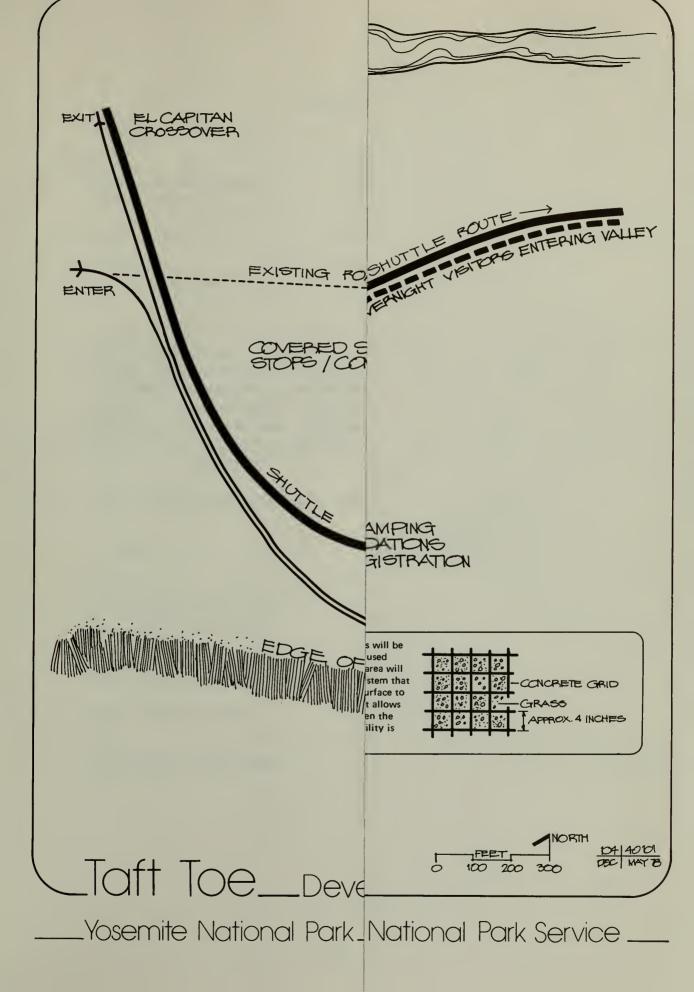
- Provide adequate water treatment and 1 million-gallon water storage tank; continue to use surface sources and existing wells for emergency use; convert to low-flow fixtures
- Remove sewage treatment plant and ponds near Bridalveil Meadow and restore area
- Upgrade wastewater collection systems where required

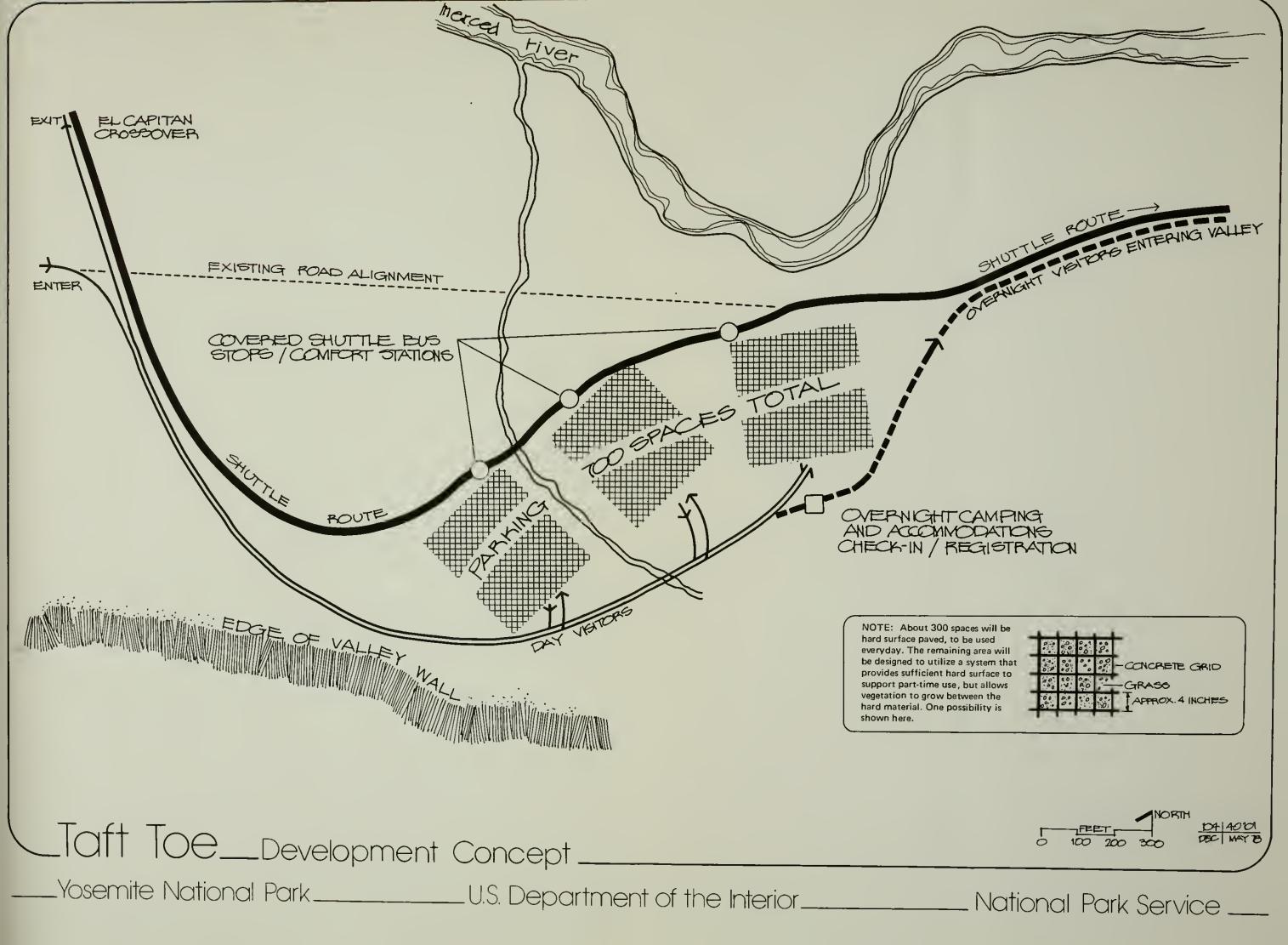
Cascades and Arch Rock

Cascades and Arch Rock are small developed areas between Yosemite Valley and El Portal that provide facilities for minor visitor use and park operations functions.

Cascades

Goals	Actions
Visitor Use Continue to provide opportunities for picnicking	Visitor Use — Retain existing picnic facilities at two areas
Park Operations Retain essential employee housing	Park Operations — Retain five existing residences
Continue power production	 Retain hydroelectric plant





Arch Rock

Goals

Visitor Use

Continue to provide opportunities for fishing and picnicking

Retain as park entrance

Park Operations

Retain essential employee housing

Actions

Visitor Use

- Retain existing parking lot, picnic area, and rest rooms
- Retain entrance station

Park Operations

- Retain two permanent residences

El Portal

The El Portal administrative site, authorized by Congress in 1958, will become the new park headquarters area. This pleasant valley, straddling the Merced River downstream from Yosemite Valley, has little land suitable for development and will require innovative design techniques to create a park headquarters and residential community for about 2,000 people. Visitors coming from the west along California Highway 140 enter the park at El Portal, and it is the park's primary winter access route.

Interpretation will focus on a history theme related to Yosemite transportation.

Goals

Visitor Use

Provide orientation and information/ reservation system for overnight accommodations and campgrounds

Provide a variety of commercial services for visitors and residents

Interpret collection of historic vehicles

Provide experimental remote staging area for Valley day visitors

Actions

Visitor Use

- Construct an information/reservation station
- Provide a commercial facilities area for services, including automobile service, restaurants, grocery store, clothing and gift sales, bank, beauty and barber shop
- Develop a transportation and community museum around the Bagby Station, train engine, and other historic objects
- Provide up to a 150-car day parking area and bus service into the Valley
- Reserve space for possible expansion of staging area and overnight accommodations

Park Operations

Create a model community for parkwide management functions, services, and housing in terms of livability, efficient land use, residential amenities, efficient use of energy, aesthetics, recycling, and water conservation

Engage in cooperative planning with Parkline businesses and Mariposa County

Avoid floodplain and geologic hazards

Park Operations

 Prepare a comprehensive design planfor El Portal with provision for the following facilities and services:

NPS administration building

YP&CC administration building

Employee parking

NPS and YP&CC maintenance, warehousing, and laundry

NPS and YP&CC open-air storage

NPS permanent housing (107 employees)

NPS seasonal housing (23 employees)

YP&CC permanent housing (260 employees)

YP&CC seasonal housing (40 employees)

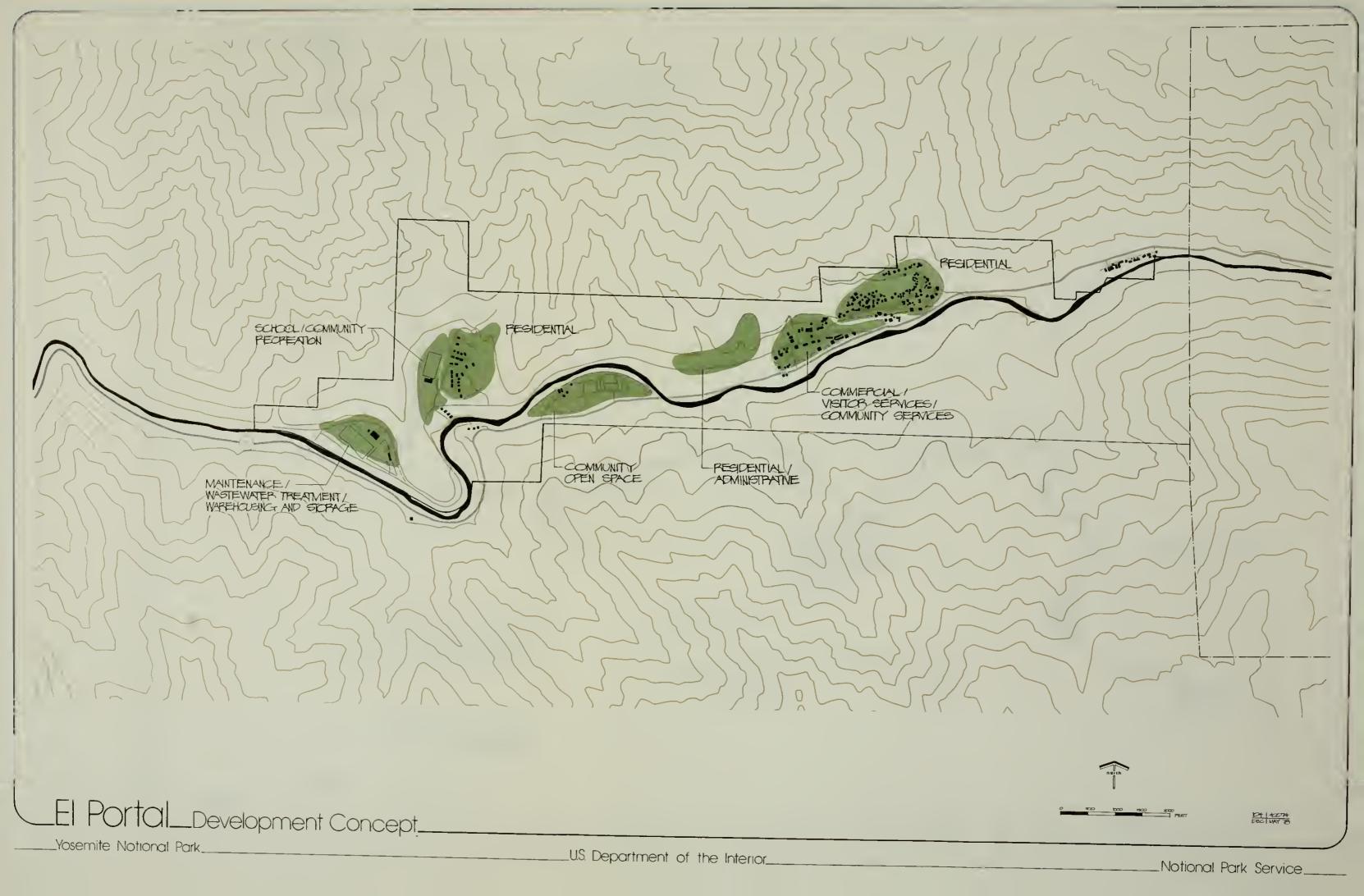
Permanent housing for other commercial employees (180 employees)

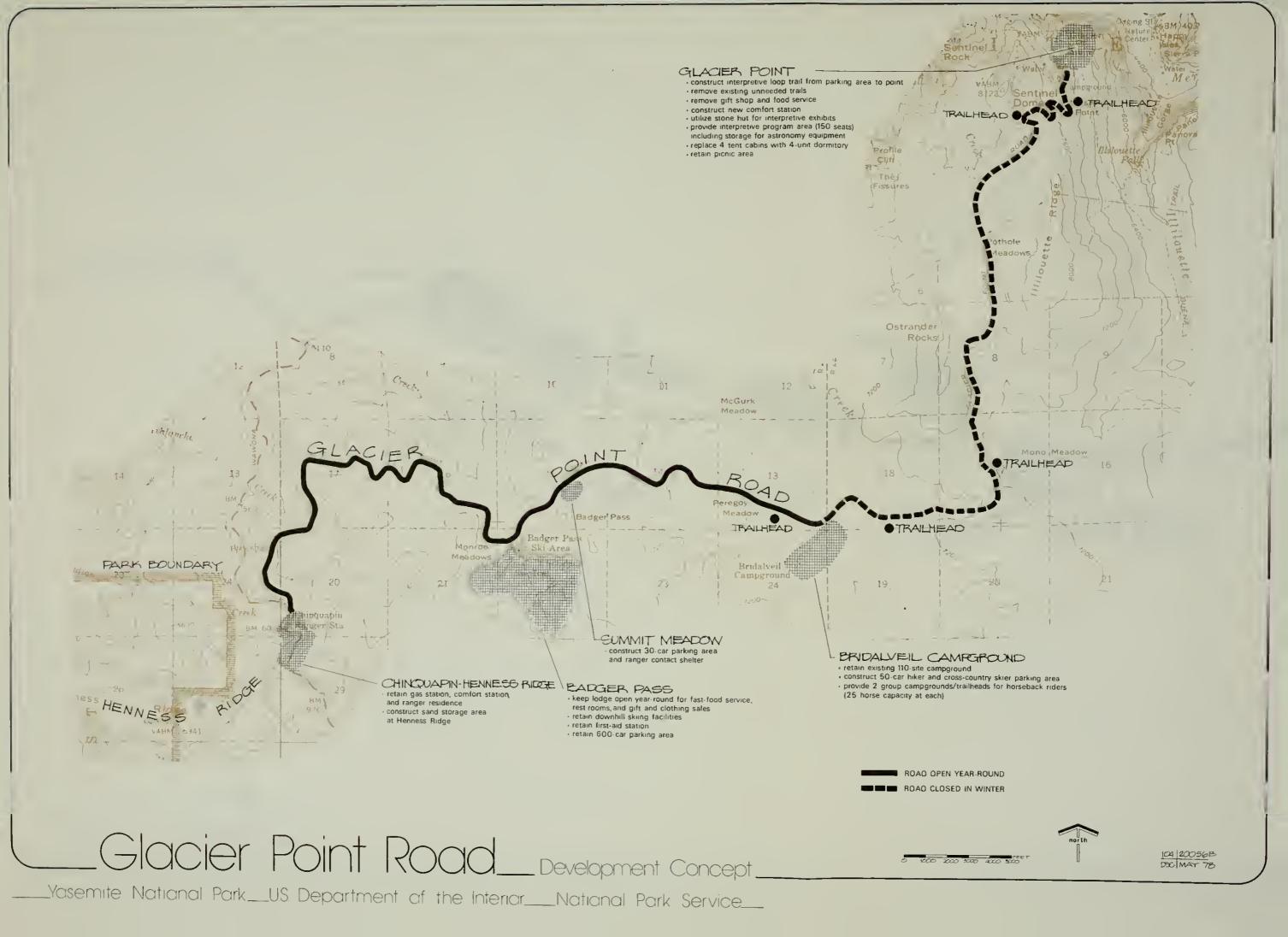
Seasonal housing for other commercial employees (106 employees)

Commercial facilities, including bulk oil storage and Pacific Telephone office

Residential amenities, including community recreation and open space, meeting hall, fire station, post office, law enforcement facilities, and school

- Convert domestic water system supply to an underground source
- Complete final phase of wastewater treatment system
- Expand elementary school to accommodate approximately 200 students





WAWONA DISTRICT

Glacier Point Road Corridor

The road from Chinquapin to Glacier Point parallels the Yosemite Valley rim, providing access to spectacular views of the Valley and the Sierra Crest. Visitors to this part of the park enjoy unique opportunities for scenic viewing and downhill skiing. This road also provides access to most of the backcountry in the southern half of the park, making it a popular entry point for hikers, backpackers, campers, horseback riders, and cross-country skiers.

The primary interpretive themes at Glacier Point will be scenery and biotic systems and geology — relating to the formation of Yosemite Valley and the High Sierra. Secondary themes will be history and astronomy. Interpretation at Badger Pass will be minimal, providing parkwide information, orientation, and conservation messages. Interpretation along the rest of the corridor will relate to viewpoints, trailheads, and other points of interest.

Chinquapin

Goals **Actions** Visitor Use Visitor Use Continue existing levels of service Retain gas station and comfort station **Park Operations Park Operations** Improve efficiency of road Construct a covered sand storage maintenance during winter months area at Henness Ridge Provide housing for essential - Retain ranger residence employees

Badger Pass

Goals	Actions	
Visitor Use	Visitor Use	

Provide opportunities for familyoriented downhill skiing and other forms of winter recreation with existing facilities and capacities

Promote increased summer use of the area

Provide ski equipment rental and sales

enforce a safe slope capacity

- Retain existing facilities and



Alleviate congestion and overflow parking during winter

Interpret activities and resources along Glacier Point Road

- Retain first-aid station
- Provide storage and repair facilities for snowshoes
- Retain 600-car parking area
- Continue winter bus service from the Valley
- Keep lodge open throughout the year for fast-food service, rest rooms, and gift and clothing sales
- Provide seasonally changing interpretive exhibits in the lodge

Bridalveil Campground/Summit Meadow

Goals

Visitor Use

Provide for year-round backcountry access

Enhance cross-country skiing opportunities

Enhance horseback riding opportunities

Actions

Visitor Use

- Retain existing campground (110 sites) and provide winter camping access
- Construct a 50-car paved parking area for hikers and cross-country skiers
- Retain Ostrander ski hut
- Continue year-round road access
- Provide two group campgrounds/ trailheads for horseback riders (25-horse capacity at each)
- Provide a parking area for 30 cars at Summit Meadow
- Construct a ranger contact shelter at Summit Meadow

Glacier Point

Goals

Visitor Use

Maximize the drama of the visual experience at Glacier Point

Provide interpretive programs

Remove intrusive facilities

Park Operations Provide adequate housing for essential employees

Provide underground powerline from Union Point to Glacier Point

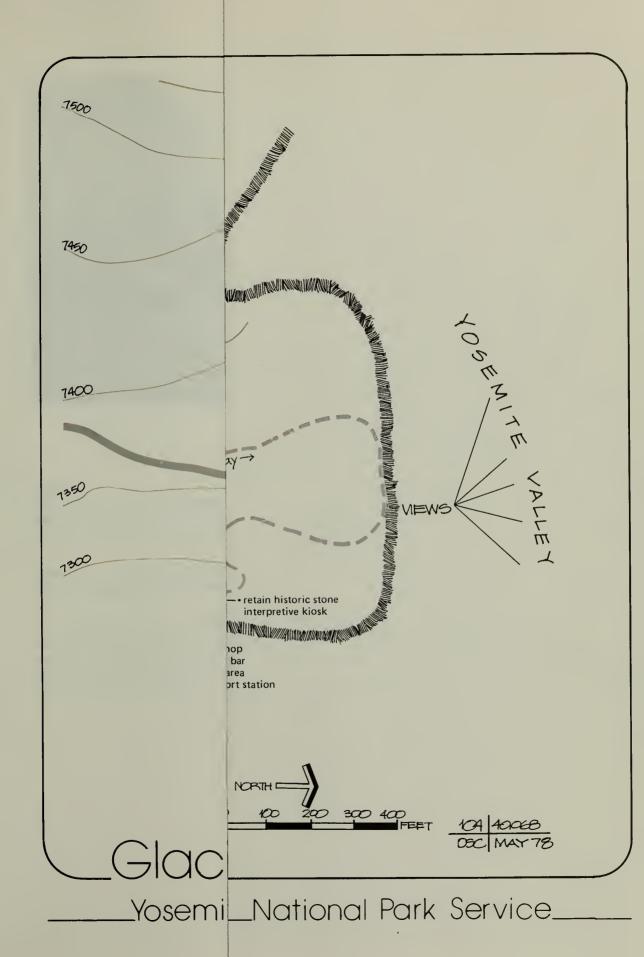
Actions

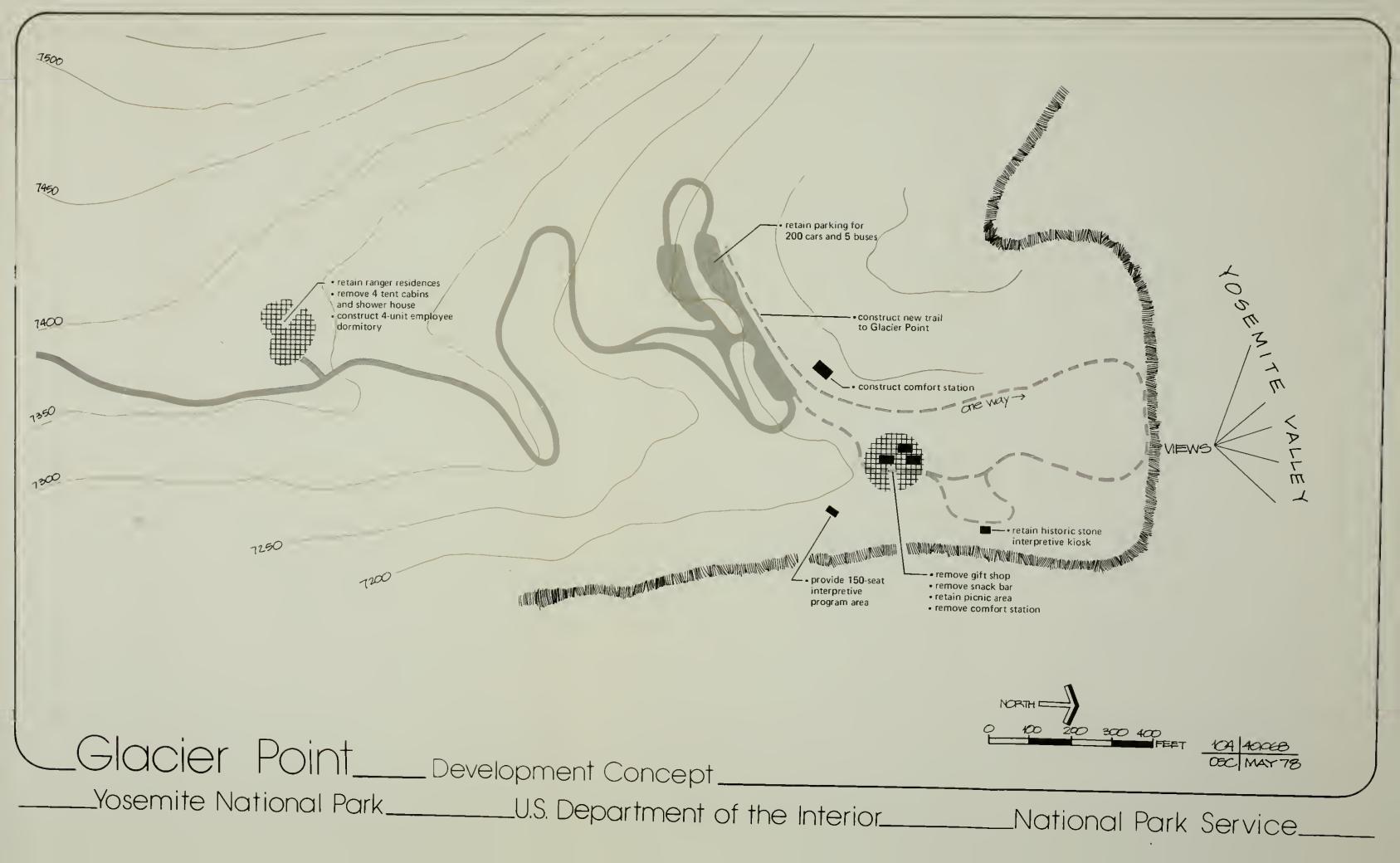
Visitor Use

- Construct a gentle, winding loop trail from the parking area through the trees to the Glacier Point Overlook
- Provide 150-seat interpretive program area suitable for daytime and nighttime interpretive programs, including storage for astronomy equipment
- Continue bus service from Yosemite
 Valley to Glacier Point
- Relocate comfort station
- Remove unnecessary and unused paved trails
- Remove gift sales and fast-food service facilities

Park Operations

- Retain ranger residences
- Replace 4 tent cabins and shower house with 4-unit dormitory
- Construct underground powerline from Union Point to Glacier Point along road shoulder







Wawona

Wawona has a historic mountain resort character. The atmosphere is serene, the people are friendly, and the service is gracious. The historic hotel complex provides an experience available nowhere else in the Sierra.

Wawona is convenient to Glacier Point, Badger Pass, and Mariposa Grove, and it is a major access point to the southern portion of Yosemite's backcountry.

The interpretive theme at Wawona will be history — the exploration, discovery, and use of the Yosemite region in the 19th century. In this pleasant historic setting, 19th-century structures and objects from throughout the park have been preserved and restored and are being interpreted at the Pioneer History Center and the Thomas Hill Studio.

Wawona

Goals

Visitor Use

Interpret early non-Indian history of Yosemite

Provide a year-round traditional overnight experience at the Wawona Hotel

Create a historically consistent visual quality within the historic zone

Provide year-round camping opportunities

Provide picnicking opportunities

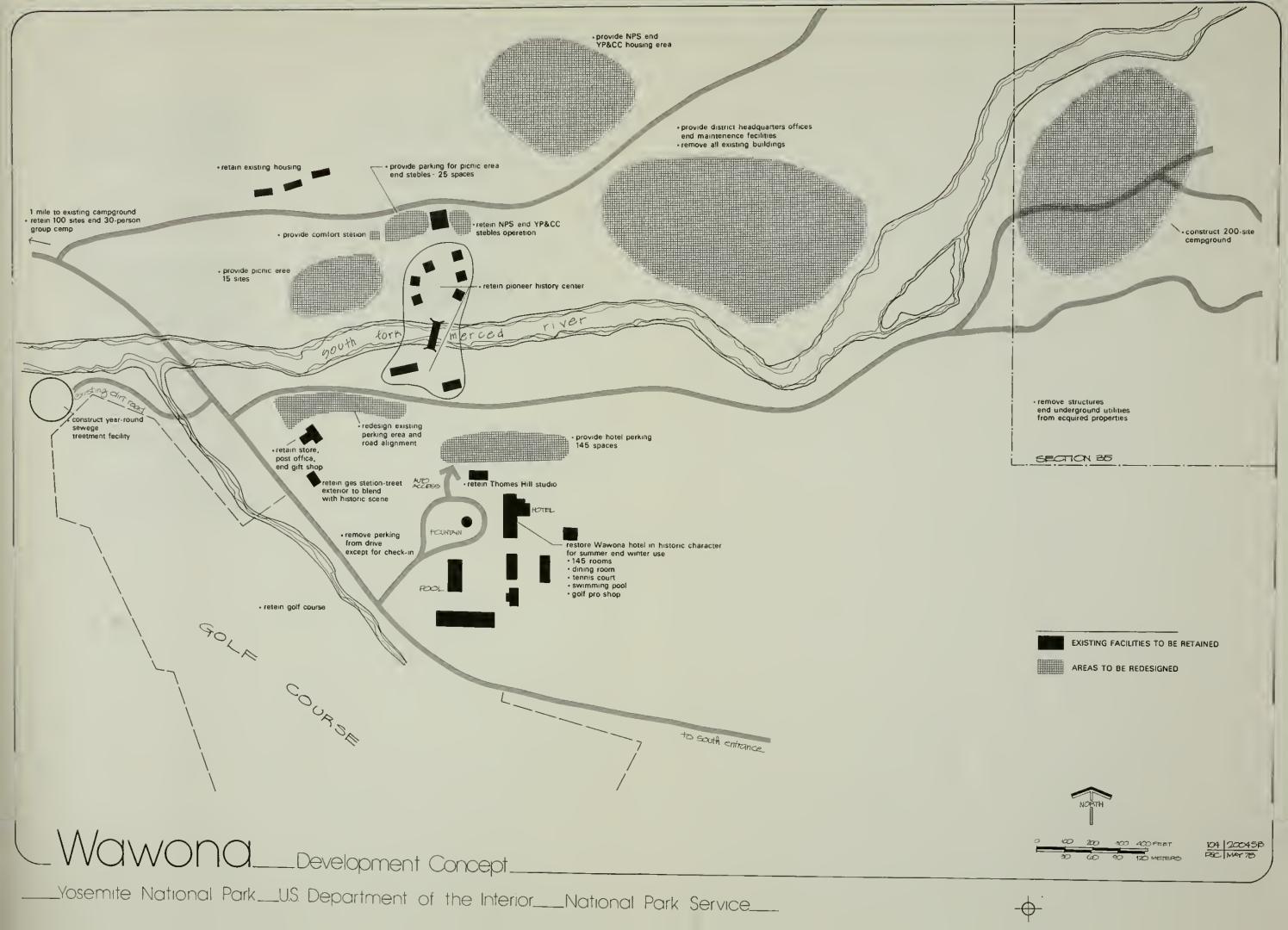
Eventually acquire all inholdings in Section 35 and return area to a natural condition

Use as a staging area for winter skiing trips

Actions

Visitor Use

- Retain the Pioneer History Center
- Redesign the parking area for the Pioneer History Center so that users are not required to cross traffic
- Provide 145 overnight accommodation units by utilizing historic structures and a new structure compatible with the historic district
- Retain golf course, YP&CC stables, tennis court, and swimming pool
- Remove parking from in front of the hotel complex and construct a 145-car area north of the complex
- Retain the store, post office, and gift shop in present location, size, and character
- Renovate the exterior of the service station in a more historically compatible design
- Retain the existing 100-site campground and 30-person group camp for year-round use
- Relocate campground amphitheater
- Construct an up to 200-site campground in Section 35
- Provide a 15-site picnic area and parking area
- Remove structures and underground utilities from acquired properties in Section 35
- Provide winter bus service to Badger Pass



Park Operations

Provide for a district headquarters and maintenance operation

Provide adequate housing for NPS and concession employees

Upgrade utilities to meet NPS and concession needs and state and federal standards

Improve the water quality of the Merced River by eliminating sources of water pollution

Park Operations

- Provide an adequate district office building to accommodate district law enforcement, resource management, and interpretive functions
- Construct a new maintenance facility, including space for storage of snow removal equipment
- Provide facilities for employee housing to accommodate about 25 permanent and 65 seasonal NPS employees and about 15 permanent and 70 seasonal YP&CC employees
- Construct a water treatment system that will bring drinking water quality up to standard, including new lines and increased storage
- Construct a new wastewater treatment plant with provisions for year-round disposal
- Connect all new and existing visitor and employee facilities to the new wastewater treatment plant

South Entrance

Most visitors from southern California enter the park through the south entrance at the junction of the road to Mariposa Grove.

Goals

Visitor Use

Provide park orientation and information/reservation system for overnight accommodations and campgrounds

Provide staging facilities for Mariposa Grove

Provide adequate road to Mariposa Grove for bus access

Park Operations

Provide housing for essential employees

Provide adequate wastewater treatment

Actions

Visitor Use

- Retain entrance station and comfort station
- Construct an information/reservation station and 50-car parking area either at south entrance or Wawona
- Construct a parking area to accommodate 200 autos, 5 buses, and tram terminal
- Repair and make minor realignment of road from south entrance to Mariposa Grove
- Provide bus service to Mariposa Grove

- Retain existing ranger residence
- Develop new wastewater treatment facility

Mariposa Grove

Mariposa Grove, one of the finest remaining spectacular stands of giant sequoias, was one of the two original areas set aside in Yosemite's early history. The awesome beauty and quiet of the grove is being protected by only allowing visitors to walk through the grove or ride a tram system with an interpreter. All interpretation will focus on the sequoias and their environment.

Goals

Visitor Use

Retain as the primary location within the park for visitor enjoyment and interpretation of the giant sequoia

Provide only visitor facilities consistent with preservation of the unique ecosystem; remove all other facilities not necessary for visitor enjoyment of the resource

Park Operations

Upgrade physical facilities to eliminate impacts and meet standards

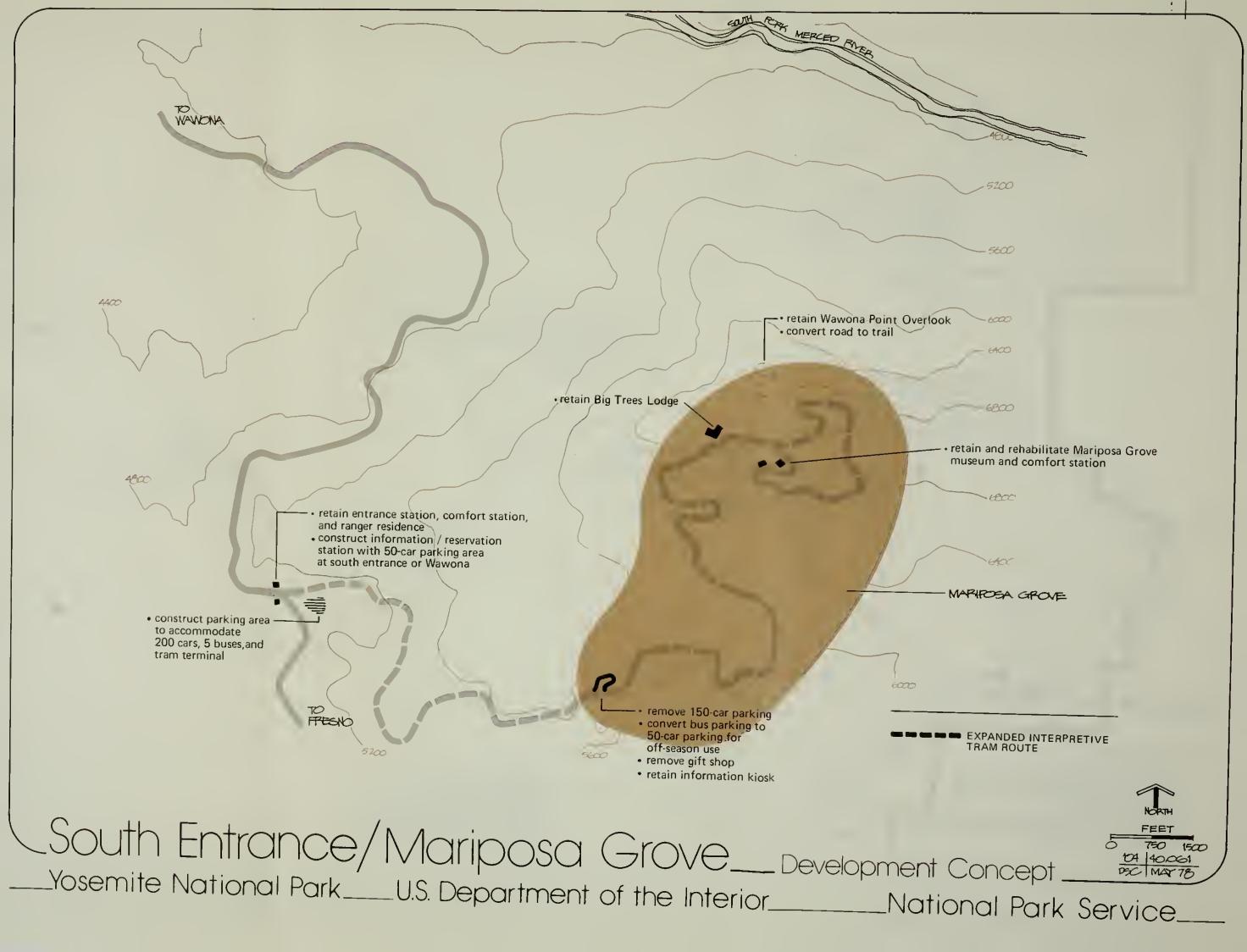
Retain essential administrative functions

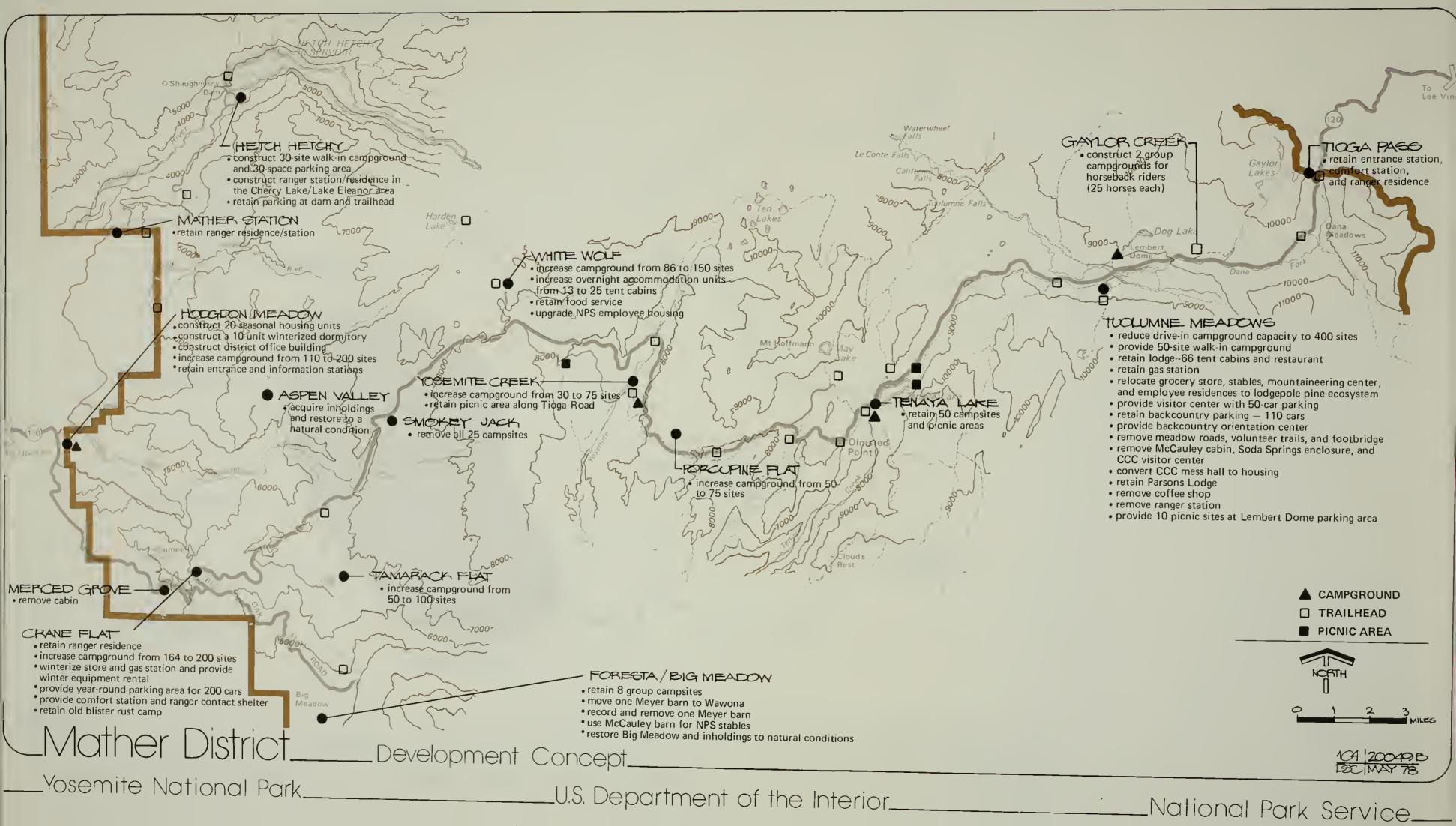
Actions

Visitor Use

- Retain the tram system through Mariposa Grove, but prohibit commercial tour buses
- Convert Wawona Point Road to a trail
- Repair and reconstruct trails through tree grove
- Remove 150-car parking area
- Convert existing bus parking area to off-season car parking (50 cars)
- Retain and rehabilitate museum and comfort station
- Retain information kiosk
- Remove the gift shop

- Replace the existing toilet facilities at the parking area
- Retain Big Trees Lodge for NPS use and authorized winter activities





MATHER DISTRICT

The Tioga Road Corridor and Tuolumne Meadows

The Tioga Road is a cross-mountain scenic road that passes through most of the environments in Yosemite. The corridor serves as a summertime trans-Sierra route and provides access points to the surrounding backcountry. A wide variety of opportunities is available along the corridor, which range from scenic driving to wilderness threshold experiences. In the winter, opportunities for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are available.

Tioga Pass Entrance. Entrance to the park at Tioga Pass is highlighted by expansive views of the alpine ecosystem and crossing the crest of the High Sierra Nevada.

Goals

Visitor Use/Park Operations
Continue to provide information,
fee collection, and housing for
employees

Actions

Visitor Use/Park Operations

 Retain existing entrance station, comfort station, and ranger residence

Tuolumne Meadows. Tuolumne Meadows is one of the finest subalpine meadows in the High Sierra and will be the focal point for promoting visitor's understanding and appreciation of the subalpine ecosystem. Facilities located adjacent to the meadow will continue to provide staging areas for backcountry and high mountain experiences, but development will be redesigned to eliminate intrusions on the fragile subalpine ecosystem.

The primary interpretive themes at Tuolumne Meadows will be biotic systems and geology (High Sierra meadows, mountains, and life communities) and wilderness/conservation. Secondary themes will be history and recreation.

Tuolumne Meadows

Goals

Visitor Use

Permit only those types and levels of use or development that do not significantly impair subalpine ecosystems

Orient development and use to the lodgepole pine ecosystem

Eliminate cross-meadow traffic by pedestrians, stock, and vehicles

Provide overnight parking consistent with capacities proposed in the current Backcountry Management Plan

Provide parkwide information and reservation services for visitors entering via Tioga Pass

Institute interpretive programs directed toward low-impact use of fragile resource areas and appreciation and understanding of meadow and subalpine ecosystems

Provide for a variety of camping opportunities

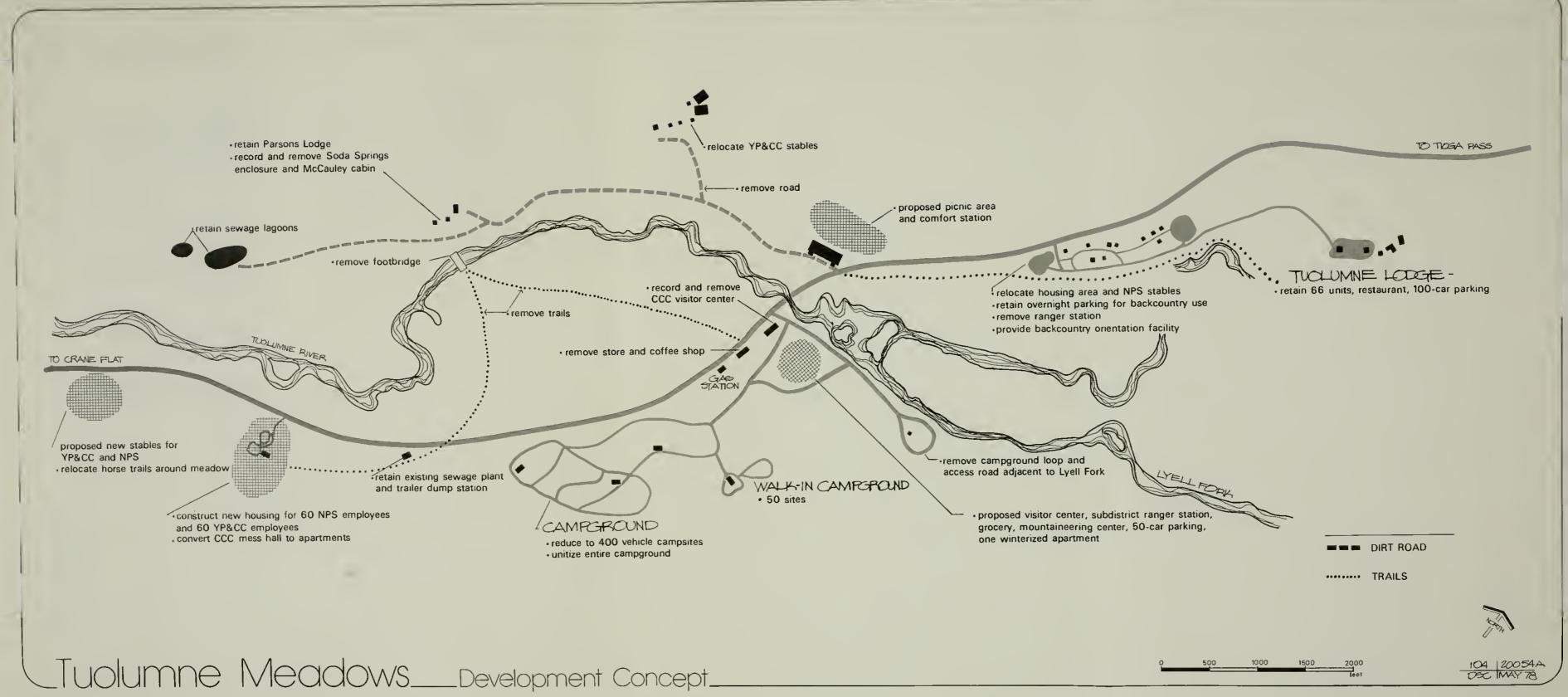
Provide overnight accommodations

Provide opportunities for picnicking

Actions

Visitor Use

- Record and remove the McCauley cabin, Soda Springs enclosure, and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) visitor center
- Retain Parsons Lodge
- Remove footbridge
- Relocate the YP&CC and NPS stables and stock trails to the lodgepole pine ecosystem
- Restore meadows by removing nonessential roads and trails
- Remove the campground loop and access road adjacent to the Lyell Fork
- Remove the coffee shop
- Relocate the grocery store at its existing size and provide space for a mountaineering center
- Construct a visitor center, information/ reservation station, and 50-car parking area
- Retain existing backcountry parking space for 110 vehicles
- Pave Cathedral Lakes parking area
- Retain the gas station in its existing location
- Construct a backcountry orientation facility adjacent to the backcountry parking area
- Construct two group campgrounds for horseback riders (25-horse capacity at each) at Gaylor Creek trailhead
- Retain the lodge (66 units) and its parking area



____Yosemite National Park_____U.S. Department of the Interior_____National Park Service___

- Unitize the campground to provide not more than 400 vehicle campsites and 50 walk-in sites
- Construct a 10-site picnic area and a comfort station at Lembert Dome parking area

Park Operations

Improve the quality of employee housing

Provide facilities for a subdistrict office operation

Bring drinking water quality up to standard

- Construct an employee housing area for about 60 NPS and 60 YP&CC employees, including conversion of the CCC mess hall to apartments
- Winterize some seasonal housing for snow survey crews, cross-country skiers, and winter keepers
- Remove ranger station and relocate subdistrict offices to new visitor center
- Remove present housing at Bug Camp/NPS stables area and from behind grocery store
- Provide surface water filtering and disinfection system to meet EPA standards

Tioga Road Campgrounds and Picnic Areas. These areas offer a variety of secluded, low-key outdoor activities in several environments that range from high, barren granite mountains to dense forests.

Goals

Visitor Use

Consolidate campgrounds to improve visitor experience, increase maintenance efficiency, and eliminate water pollution

Continue to provide opportunities for picnicking

Park Operations

Improve wastewater treatment along the Tioga Road to bring developments and campgrounds up to state and federal standards

Actions

Visitor Use

Increase in size, or remove, primitive campgrounds as follows:

	Action	Existing	Proposed	Change
Tamarack Flat	Increase	50	100	+50
Smokey Jack	Remove	25	0	-25
Yosemite Creek	Increase	30	75	+45
Porcupine Flat	Increase	50	75	+25
Tenaya Lake	Status quo	50	50	0
Totals		205	300	+95

Retain picnic areas at their present location and capacity

Park Operations

 Provide chemical toilets at some primitive campgrounds along the Tioga Road White Wolf. White Wolf is a quiet, secluded area with a mountain lodge and campgrounds available for overnight use. Because of the popularity of this area, facilities will be improved and expanded slightly, but the primitive, nature-oriented character will be retained.

Goals

Visitor Use Increase camping opportunities and overnight accommodations

Park Operations Improve the domestic water system

Provide electricity

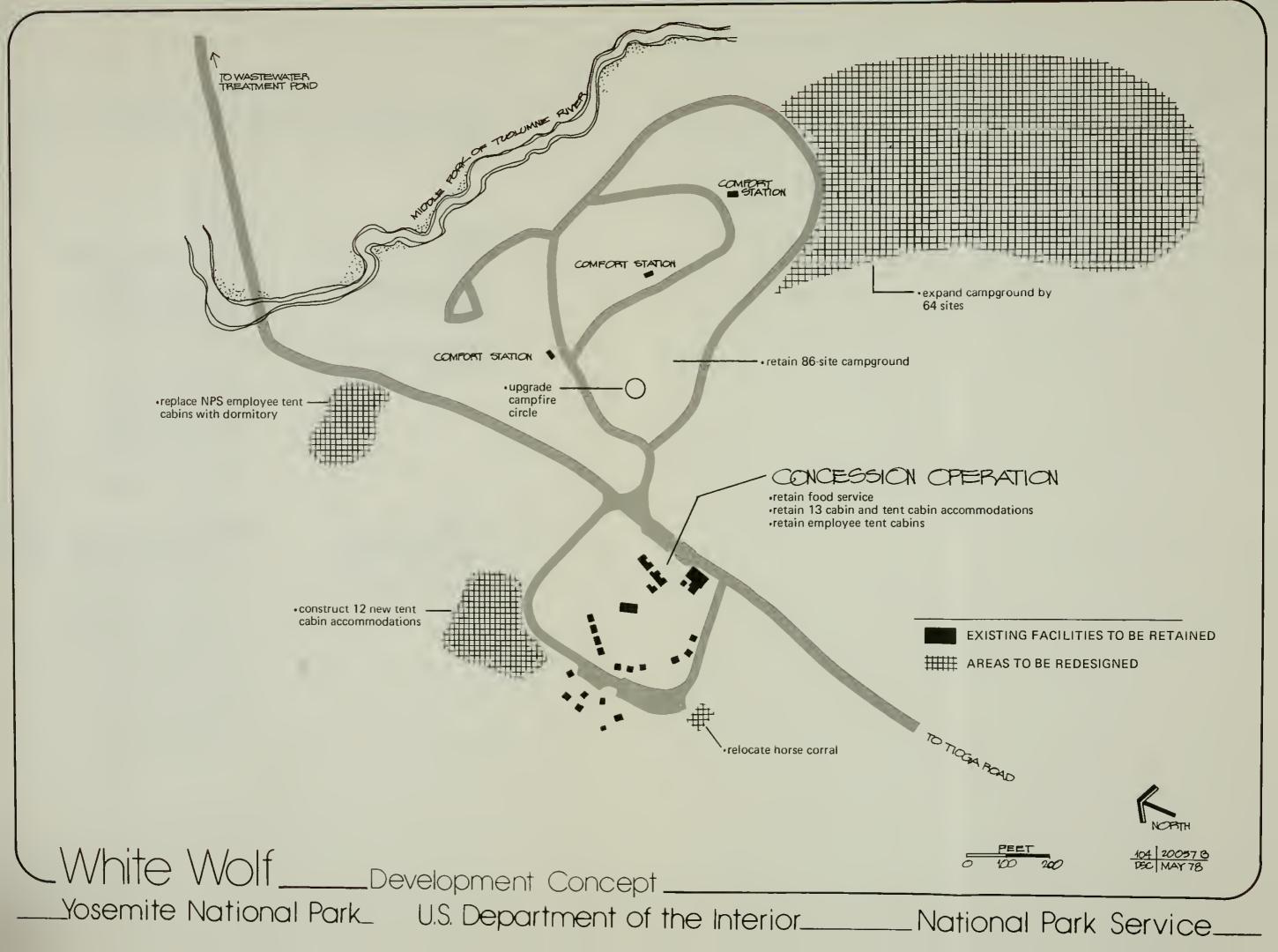
Provide adequate housing for essential employees

Actions

Visitor Use

- Increase campground size from 86 to not more than 150 sites
- Upgrade campfire circle
- Increase YP&CC overnight accommodations from 13 to 25 (add 12 tent cabins)
- Relocate horse corral
- Retain food service

- Develop two additional wells to add to existing underground system
- Provide commercial power from Crane Flat
- Replace NPS employee tent cabins with dormitory
- Retain YP&CC employee tent cabins



Crane Flat. Crane Flat is a minor service area that provides opportunities for quiet, pleasant camping in the summer and nordic skiing and other snow play activities in the winter.

Goals

Visitor Use

Increase opportunities for camping

Provide adequate support facilities to accommodate existing levels of winter use

Provide experimental day parking area for Valley visitors

Park Operations

Improve utilities to bring them up to state and federal standards

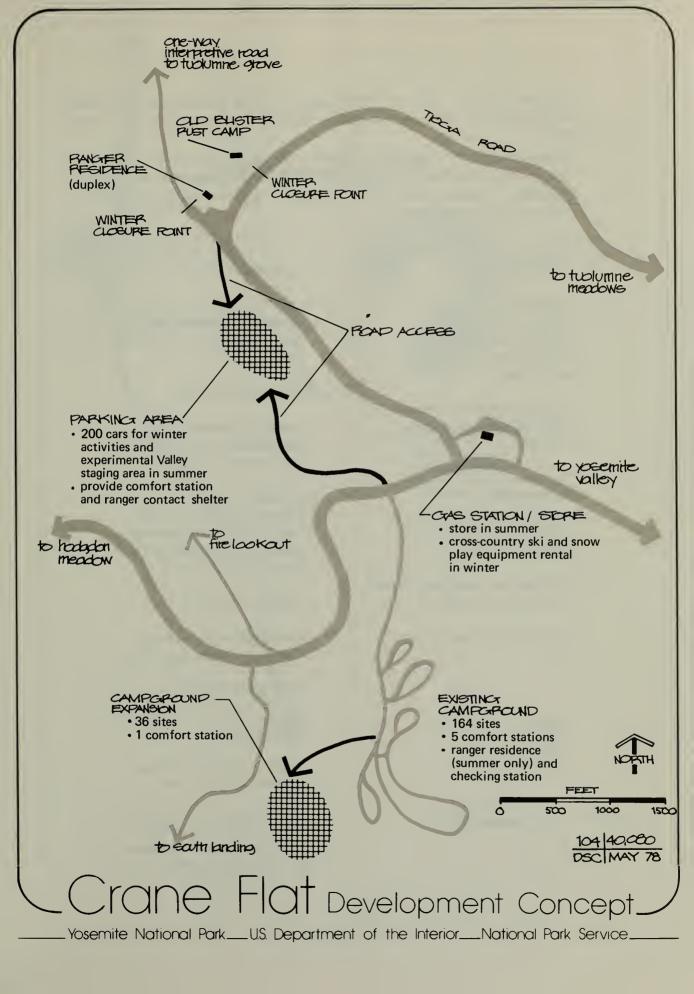
Retain essential employee housing

Actions

Visitor Use

- Increase size of campground from 164 to not more than 200 sites
- Winterize the store and provide cross-country ski rental and snow play equipment rental
- Keep gas station open all year
- Provide parking for 200 cars for winter activities; use in summer as experimental staging area for Valley day visitors
- Provide comfort station and ranger contact shelter at parking area

- Drill well(s) to provide a reliable, year-round domestic water source
- Construct sewage treatment facility
- Provide commercial electrical power through a commercial hookup from Hodgdon via South Landing Road
- Provide sand storage at South Landing for winter snow operations
- Retain existing ranger residence
- Retain old blister rust camp



Tuolumne Grove. Visitors will continue to enjoy the serenity of a majestic sequoia grove by driving the one-way interpretive road through Tuolumne Grove.

Hodgdon Meadow. Hodgdon Meadow is the site of the Big Oak Flat entrance station and Mather District headquarters. This northwest entrance to the park is primarily an administrative site, but camping opportunities in a low-elevation environment are also available.

Goals

Visitor Use

Provide an information/ reservation system for visitors entering the park along the Big Oak Flat Road

Increase camping opportunities in the Big Oak Flat entrance portion of the park

Park Operations

Create a central administrative, residential, and maintenance area for the Mather District

Provide adequate wastewater treatment for the entire developed area

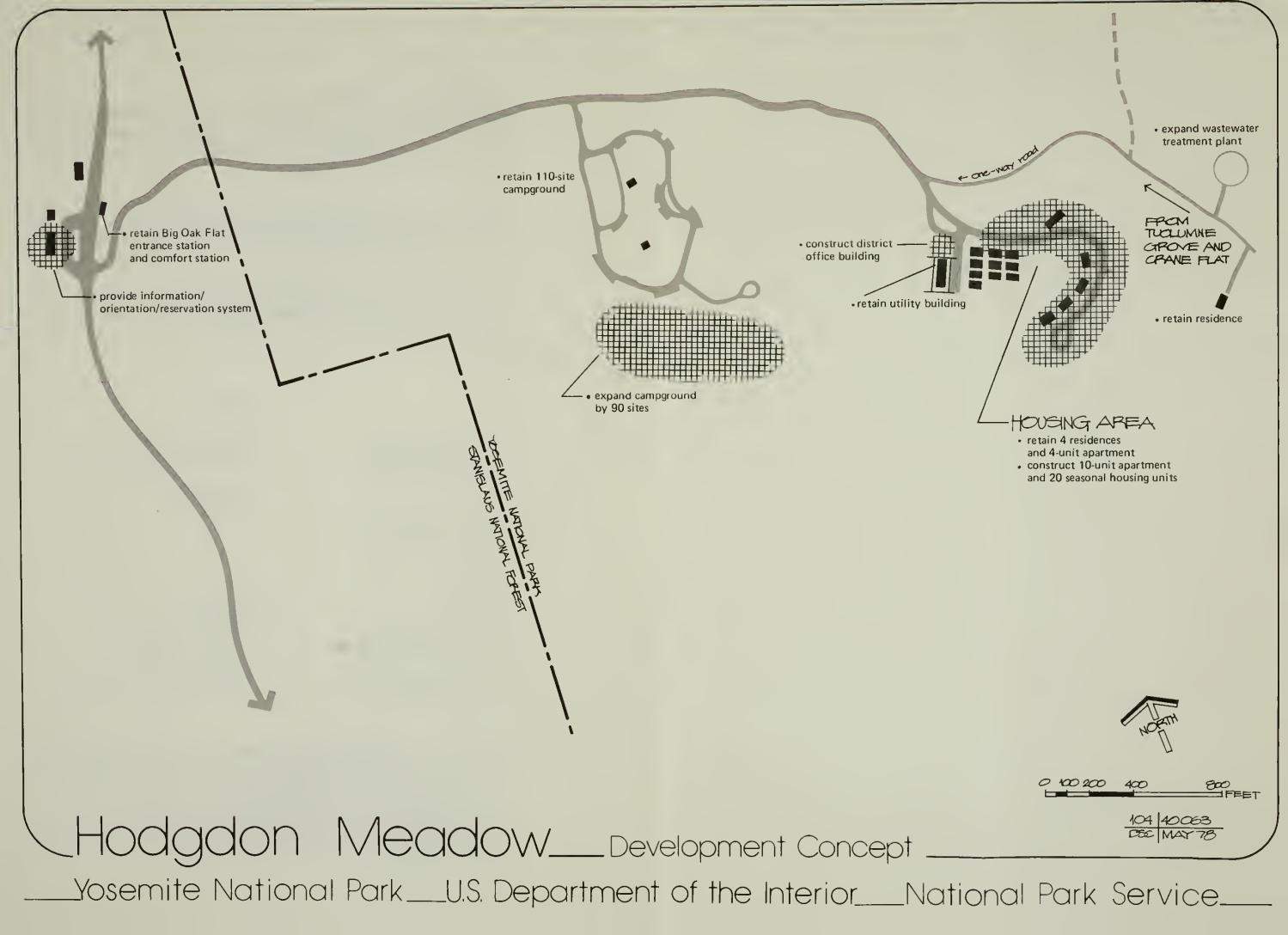
Provide adequate domestic water supply

Actions

Visitor Use

- Retain existing information station and incorporate reservation system
- Retain entrance station
- Increase the Hodgdon Meadow campground from 110 to not more than 200 sites

- Connect all facilities at entrance station to the existing wastewater treatment plant; expand plant and provide for year-round use
- Retain utility building
- Convert existing surface water system to an underground source
- Retain existing residences
- Construct 20 seasonal housing units for employees
- Construct a 10-unit, winterized efficiency apartment facility
- Construct district office building to accommodate district law enforcement, resource management, and interpretive functions



Hetch Hetchy and Lake Eleanor

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and Lake Eleanor are located in the northwest corner of the park away from the main traffic route, and they receive little use in comparison with Yosemite Valley. Both reservoirs are part of the San Francisco water and power-production system.

Hetch Hetchy. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and O'Shaughnessy Dam is a popular destination for visitors, who spend a short time viewing the dam and the Yosemite Valley-like walls and falls above the reservoir and taking brief walks along the shore. Backcountry hikers frequently use this area as an entry or exit point.

The Hetch Hetchy shore has little suitable land for development because it is steep. Since the lake is a domestic water supply, there are strict restrictions by the city of San Francisco on its use for water recreation and on the use of adjoining lands.

Goals

Visitor Use

Continue use as a destination for visitors who wish to view the dam, the reservoir, and the valley

Continue to provide backcountry access from Hetch Hetchy

Provide additional camping opportunities

Park Operations

Provide an adequate supply of treated water for domestic use

Provide waste treatment which meets state and federal standards

Actions

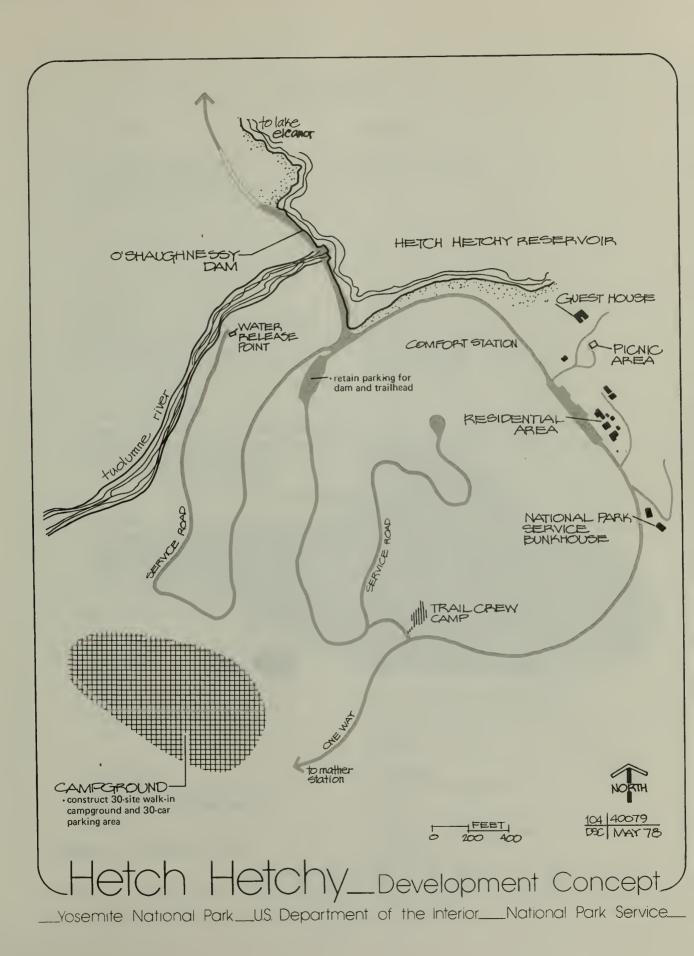
Visitor Use

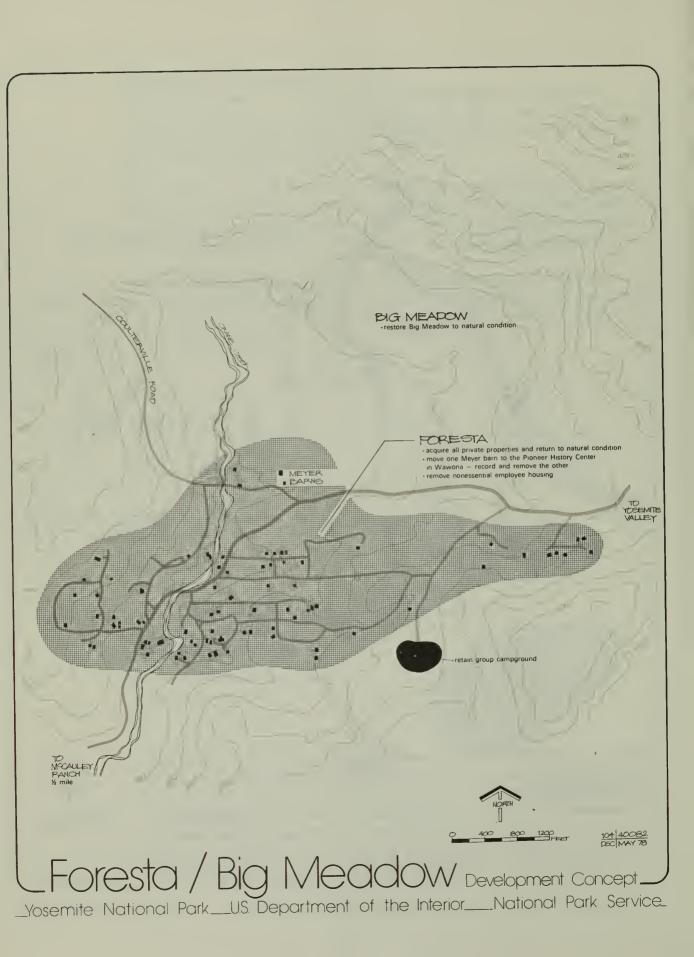
- Construct a 30-site walk-in campground and 30-car parking area
- Retain parking for dam and trailhead

Park Operations

- Develop additional surface water source for domestic water
- Install chemical toilets or septic system at the campground

Lake Eleanor. The gently sloping land along the lake's northwest and southeast shores is particularly suitable for backcountry use. It is approximately 4 miles from the road terminus and provides easy access to the backcountry for families and novice hikers. The lake only provides water for power production, so restrictions on public use are much less stringent than those at Hetch Hetchy. Visitors to Lake Eleanor also use Cherry Lake, which is located on nearby U.S. Forest Service land.





Mather Station

Goals

Visitor Use/Park Operations Continue to provide minimal information services and employee quarters

Actions

Visitor Use/Park Operations

- Retain existing facilities

Aspen Valley

Goals

Visitor Use Remove facilities not directly related to visitors' enjoyment of the natural environment

Actions

Visitor Use

Acquire private properties as opportunity permits and restore to a natural condition

Foresta/Big Meadow

Foresta/Big Meadow is a quiet area away from the road where ranching was a traditional use; the natural condition will be restored when the contemporary private development is removed.

Goals

Visitor Use

Provide for group camping

Remove facilities not directly related to visitors' enjoyment of the natural environment

Actions

Visitor Use

- Retain existing site for group camping
- Restore a total of 7.40 acres of privately owned land to a natural condition
- Relocate one Meyer barn to Pioneer History Center at Wawona
- Record and remove second Meyer barn
- Restore Big Meadow to a natural condition

Park Operations

Relocate employees to areas where they work when housing becomes available

Retain NPS stables

- Remove nonessential employee housing
- Continue to use McCauley Ranch for NPS stables



The Backcountry

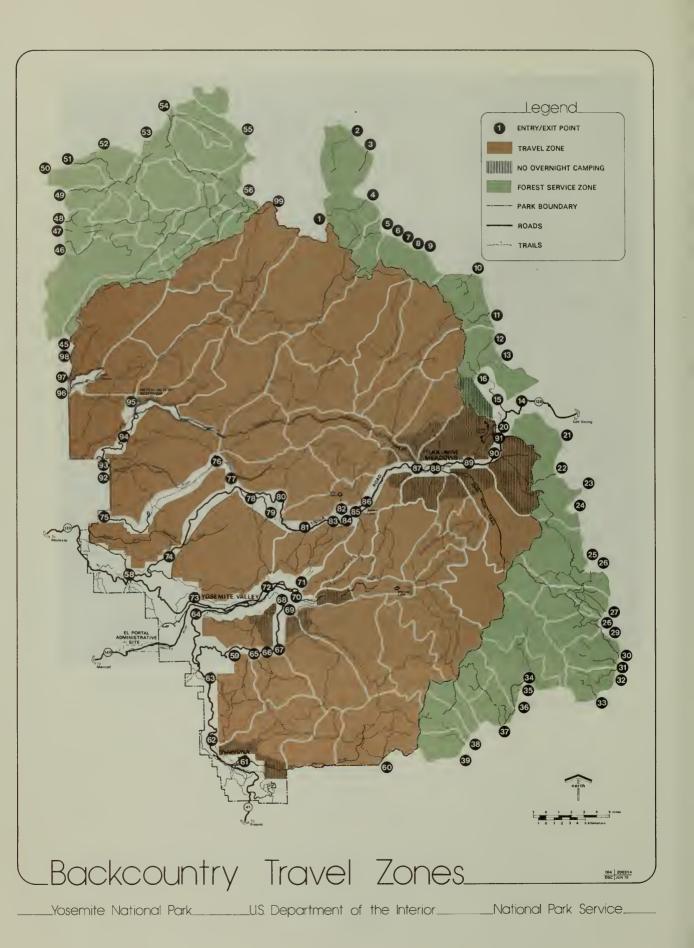
The Yosemite backcountry is a rugged landscape of glaciated granite, monolithic domes, jagged snowcapped peaks, lush green meadows, clear-running streams, pristine lakes, and forested plateaus and ridges. Most of the backcountry is below timberline — a sharp contrast to the vast alpine backcountry of Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks. As the largest unit of the park, the backcountry covers approximately 725,000 acres, which is 95 percent of the park's land.

The backcountry accommodates the hiker seeking solitude, organized groups, families, and novices. It is only accessible by hiking and horseback in the summer and fall and by skiing in the spring and winter. Trails are maintained at standards that depend on the amount and kind of use received and the distance of the trails from the access road. Bridges are provided over streams at trail crossings where visitor safety is a concern. Trailside camping is dispersed to prevent damage to the resources.

The backcountry is managed to regulate the number of visitors so that the stability of the ecosystems can be maintained. Management is based on a *Backcountry Management Plan*, and it is closely coordinated with management of surrounding national forests. The plan identifies 53 backcountry travel zones for the backcountry.

A carrying capacity for each zone, based on physical, ecological, and psychological factors, is established to limit use and preserve the resource integrity. A permit system helps control use and the effects of visitation on the resource by setting limits on the number of people entering each trailhead daily.

The concession-operated High Sierra camps offer opportunities for people who desire a different kind of backcountry experience. Use of these camps will not change as long as they do not interfere with the surrounding environment. If increased amounts of technological support (i.e., treatment of human waste) becomes necessary for a camp's operation, it will be eliminated.



Regional Considerations

VISITOR FACILITIES

Lodges, restaurants, campgrounds, and other facilities on lands outside the park directly affect use of the park, its resources, and its facilities. Planning and development of complementary overnight facilities and services on adjacent land is under way in some areas. It will be especially important to pursue cooperative planning with private interests in El Portal, Fish Camp, and Lee Vining when this plan is implemented.

It is proposed that there be increased cooperative planning efforts with appropriate state, county, and federal agencies to control use of diminishing resources in the region and to locate sites where new visitor facilities and services would complement those inside the park.

The National Park Service will not grant rights-of-way across park land to overnight accommodations outside the park because of unacceptable impacts to park resources.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The National Park Service endorses the development and increased use of public transportation. The proposed expansion of shuttle bus service within the park will facilitate in-park circulation and will hopefully encourage visitors to travel to the park by public transportation.

Increased bus service to the park and within the park would help reduce automobile congestion and alleviate parking space problems. As people become more energy conscious and there is increased demand for public transportation, cooperative planning on a regional and statewide basis could promote the development and use of public transportation.

If expanded bus service proved to be feasible and there was a demand from visitors, regularly scheduled routes from nearby cities such as Lee Vining, Merced, Fresno, Oakhurst, Mariposa, and Groveland could be provided. As technological advances are made, other types of services may be provided.

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As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, parks and recreation areas, and to ensure the wise use of all these resources. The department also has major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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